

14th May, 1983 30p

Shoot!

ABERDEEN'S EURO TASK



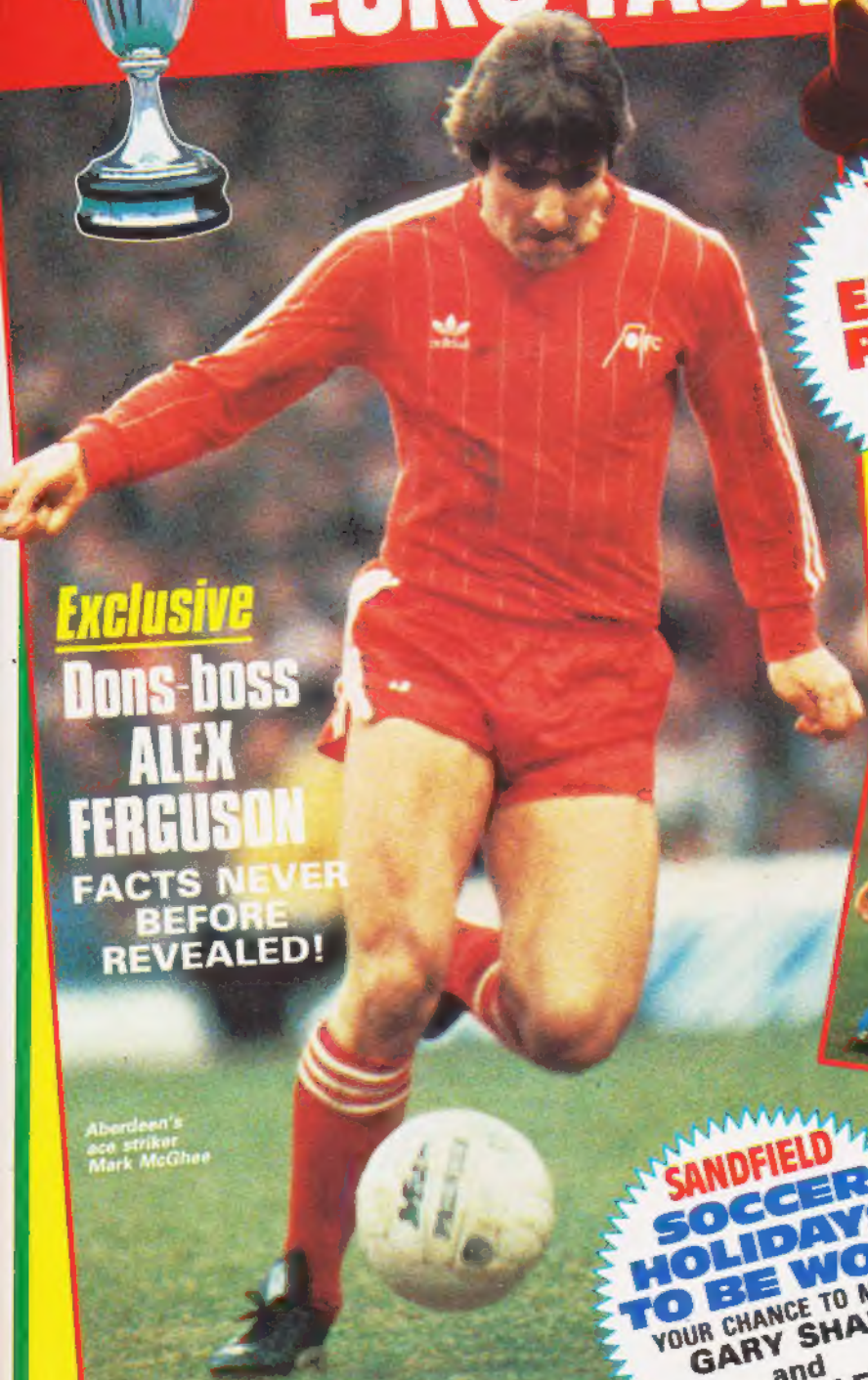
**YOUR
MOST
EXCITING
PLAYERS
OF THE
YEAR**

England
DALGLISH
Scotland
NICHOLAS

Exclusive

**Dons-boss
ALEX
FERGUSON**
FACTS NEVER
BEFORE
REVEALED!

Aberdeen's
ace striker
Mark McGhee



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TO BE WON!**
YOUR CHANCE TO MEET
GARY SHAW
and
**CYRILLE
REGIS**

GARY BAILEY
**'READY TO
OUST SHILTON'**

YOUR MOST EXCITING



HERE they are! Kenny Dalglish and Charlie Nicholas, the men you, the readers, voted SHOOT's Most Exciting Players of the Year for 1983.

The super-Scots, whose dazzling form for Liverpool and Celtic respectively has excited crowds throughout Britain and left a trail of admiring defenders either side of the border, typify all that is thrilling and admirable about our game.

We went through the thousands of replies with a fine tooth comb and while we were able to

Kenny Dalglish Liverpool and Scotland

PROUD is the word that sums up my feelings about being voted SHOOT's Most Exciting English League Player.

I have the rare privilege of winning this award for the sixth time in my career and I can assure readers that the trophy will stand proudly alongside the other five.

And when I remember how thrilled I was the first time I won it at Celtic in 1974, this award is even more memorable because it means I must have achieved a reasonable level of consistency in the eyes of the readers.

Every player enjoys recognition for his efforts. We are all encouraged when the fans give us credit, but I am a great believer in the team rather than the individual, something I have said in SHOOT many times before.

There is no way I would win any such award without the help of the other Liverpool players.

So in many ways when readers vote for a player from a particular team they are also giving a boost to the rest of that player's team-mates.

There is no big secret concerning the way I approach the game. I believe that if a player gives 100 per cent to his team every time, it will see him through the lean spells, when goals don't go in and passes go a bit astray.

As long as you are contributing your all to the cause then the results remain consistent and you can play your part in a successful game and a successful run.

I didn't score my first goal of the

season until we beat Brighton 3-1 at Anfield on October 30! But things picked up after that. You have to keep working hard and believing in yourself.

It's been another marvellous season for us. We've worked hard and suffered a few disappointments on the way. But beating Manchester United 2-1 in the Milk Cup Final gave us a hat-trick of wins and the distinction of being the first team to achieve that feat.

And, of course, title number 14 stretches us ahead in the record books. The League is always the most difficult to win and the most satisfying when you win it.

We were all disappointed when we lost 1-0 at home to Brighton in the F.A. Cup Fifth Round. People say that it's some consolation that they've gone all the way to Wembley. But while I wish them luck I don't see it as any consolation because they knocked us out!

People ask me what of next season? Well, nothing changes at Anfield. We will set out to win everything in sight, maintain our standards and strive to become even better.

Right now I am sorting out the exact position among my trophies for the SHOOT award — another good reason to look back on 1982-83 with pride.

PAST WINNERS

ENGLAND

1970: Peter Bonetti
1971: Steve Heighway
1972: Kevin Keegan
1973: Allan Clarke
1974: Billy Bremner
1975: Alan Hudson
1976: Gordon Hill
1977: Andy Gray
1978: Kenny Dalglish
1979: Kenny Dalglish
1980: Kenny Dalglish
1981: Kenny Dalglish
1982: Glenn Hoddle

SCOTLAND

1970: Jimmy Johnstone
1971: Willie Henderson
1972: Joe Harper
1973: Derek Parlane
1974: Kenny Dalglish
1975: Sandy Jardine
1976: Willie Pettigrew
1977: Danny McGrain
1978: Derek Johnstone
1979: Andy Ritchie
1980: Davie Provan
1981: Charlie Nicholas
1982: Paul Sturrock

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

select six outstanding players from both countries on the evidence of your votes. DalGLISH and Nicholas swept aside all challengers by mammoth margins.

Goal-takers and goal makers, we would not mind betting that a few Everton voters nominated DalGLISH and a Rangers fan or two conceded that Nicholas was the best they had seen.

Here the Scottish internationals describe their reactions to your votes on the day we gave them the news.

Charlie Nicholas Celtic and Scotland

IN a season when so much has happened to me, winning SHOOT's Most Exciting Scottish League Player award for the second time is almost too much to take in!

I can only say a humble 'thank you' to the readers who gave me their votes and assure you all that the trophy will stand where anyone who visits my new house in Glasgow can see it.

It is rewarding to see the word 'exciting' because that is what we believe Celtic's football is all about — excitement, goals and entertainment.

We have a young side, a team capable of adapting to all situations, climates and opponents, and one which looks certain to get even better. And I believe that my game has benefited because of the lads around me.

There's no way I'd score some of my goals without the build up and support play throughout the team.

On the team front we were all bitterly disappointed when we lost to Real Sociedad in the European Cup because we knew, deep down, we should have gone through, especially after rocking Europe by going out to Amsterdam and beating Ajax 2-1 in the previous round.

But then we picked up again after winning the Scottish League Cup. Once again it involved an 'Old Firm' game against Rangers and once again it was a close-fought affair with us edging through 2-1.

I was very dejected when an injury prevented me from facing Aberdeen in the Scottish Cup

Semi-Final on April 16. I'm not saying for one moment that we would have won if I'd been there, but it is agony having to watch your teammates play when you cannot.

On the personal front, I am truly delighted to have bounced back after a spell sidelined with a broken leg. I doubt if there is a more frightening injury for any sportsman.

But with tremendous help and encouragement from Celtic I was back in action after missing the start of the season.

Then, of course, came that magical moment when Jock Stein selected me for my Scotland debut.

It may have been said a million times before but there cannot be a greater honour than that of being picked for your country.

We knew we had to beat the Swiss at Hampden to sustain a realistic challenge in the European Championship. As it turned out we had to battle back from 2-0 down for a 2-2 draw, and I had the pleasure of scoring on my debut.

But while I am always an optimist, it's going to be very difficult now for Scotland to resist the strong position of Belgium.

All in all, a marvellous season and one made all the more satisfying thanks to SHOOT readers!



THIS YEAR'S TOP SIX

In England

- 1st. KENNY DALGLISH Liverpool
- 2nd. IAN RUSH Liverpool (left)
- 3rd. BRYAN ROBSON Man Utd
- 4th. NORMAN WHITESIDE Man Utd.
- 5th. GARY MABBUTT Spurs
- 6th. SAMMY LEE Liverpool

In Scotland

- 1st. CHARLIE NICHOLAS Celtic
- 2nd. GORDON STRACHAN Aberdeen (right)
- 3rd. ERIC BLACK Aberdeen
- 4th. WILLIE MILLER Aberdeen
- 5th. MARK MCGHEE Aberdeen
- 6th. PAUL STURROCK Dundee Utd



Melia magic

WHEN Mike Bailey was relieved of his job as Brighton manager shortly before Christmas, Jimmy Melia was brought in from the cold of a low key scouting job to take charge of affairs on a temporary basis.

There was heavy emphasis on the word "temporary" as Melia arrived with none of the customary trumpeting that heralds a new boss' appointment.

The most ardent Seagulls supporter saw Melia's role as only a "holding" appointment, smoothing the way for a big name to become Brighton's 12th manager since the War.

It never happened.

Jimmy Melia, once a clever ball player in the Liverpool teams of the late 50's and early 60's, grew attached to the boss' chair, fairly revelling in the life-line thrown him by chairman Mike Bamber.

SHOOT, view!

His surprising skill in steering Brighton to their first F.A. Cup Final in a fortnight's time is nothing more than a fairy-tale for fans whose season seemed to be finished when the club nosedived into relegation trouble long before the end of the season.

Melia's special brand of enthusiasm and optimism drove a new spirit into Brighton's beleaguered camp; it was never more apparent than when his players rose above their League form to batter Newcastle, after a replay, Manchester City, Liverpool, Norwich and Sheffield Wednesday into Cup submission.

Now, there is not one football supporter who would try to deny the brave Liverpoolian his moment of glory when that impish smile lights up Wembley on May 21.

Whatever the result, he will no doubt dance a jig of joy across the famous turf at the end. His managerial pedigree is not that impressive, but he speaks that special Liverpool Paisley-type commonsense language that players respect.

The man who arrived at Brighton as a bit of a joke has had the last laugh — win or lose the F.A. Cup Final.

Did you know?

Manchester City's 80-goal total in the 1937-38 season was more than any other team in the First Division, yet they were still relegated.

IAN BORTHAM wasn't a winner very often this winter as England's cricket tour Down Under went from one disaster to another. But at least Ian is proving a success on the soccer field — making both goals for Winterton Rangers as the North-East Counties Premier Division leaders beat Belper Town 2-1.

Battling Bremner

BILLY BREMNER has no intention of quitting as manager of Doncaster Rovers, destined for relegation from the Third Division after a disastrous 12 months.

Says battling Billy: "No matter what anybody says, I'll still be here next season trying to get Rovers back up."

"We've had a lot of injuries and very little luck, but the main reason we're at the bottom of the table is that we're not good enough."

"But I'm here to put things right and I will."

Hesitant Hooks

PAUL HOOKS admits he wasn't very keen when the possibility of a transfer from Notts County to Derby was first suggested.

Hooks eventually agreed to the £40,000 move on the day of the transfer deadline... then netted in his first two games.

Says Paul: "I had to consider what the future holds for Derby before I agreed to sign."

"But after talks with Peter Taylor he convinced me that I was the player Derby needed to keep them up and I got off on the right foot with goals against Shrewsbury and Newcastle which helped us collect four vital points."

TARGET-MAN LINEKER



MANCHESTER UNITED, Ipswich and West Ham have all been showing an interest in Leicester's deadly striker Gary Lineker, currently the Football League's top scorer.

Should Leicester fall in their late bid to pinch promotion to the First Division, manager Gordon Milne could have a battle on his hands to keep the livewire Lineker at the club.

Incidentally, Gary had a hectic weekend recently as he helped City keep on the pressure with a 3-1 home win against Rotherham.

His two late goals helped him become the club's top League scorer in a season. He

also won £1 off his former team-mate Paul Friar, now with Rotherham, in a bet that Mark Wallington would save Joe McBride's second-half penalty.

Then he rushed off to meet his good friend Willie Thorne to make the trip to Sheffield for the World Snooker Championships.

ROBSON

WATFORD boss Graham Taylor has run into trouble in his capacity as manager of England's Youth team.

With the European Youth Championship Finals due to kick-off next week, Taylor has had difficulty finalising his squad because so many of the country's top youngsters are involved in promotion and relegation battles.

Explained Taylor: "I had to name a squad of 25 players on April 24, 20 days before our first Championship game against Spain at Stoke on May 12."

"That squad has to be reduced to 17 on the eve of the match, but because so many of my lads could be needed by their clubs for vital

FORMER Republic of Ireland manager Johnny Giles seems to have completely severed his ties with his native country. In the past, Johnny's wife and family stayed in Dublin while he coached the Vancouver Whitecaps in Canada. But now that Giles has resigned as manager of Shamrock Rovers, he's sold the Dublin house and the whole family have emigrated to Canada.

● Keep it in the dark, but Ipswich's latest signing is so brilliant that they're reaching for the dark glasses down at Portman Road. Physio Tommy Egglestone and midfielder star Trevor Putney are put in the shade by the latest laser healing equipment in the Ipswich medical room.



KEVIN KEEGAN has hit back at those people who questioned his motives behind his move to Newcastle. "I don't need the money any more. I'm only playing for enjoyment," he says.

"I've had a good run and feel I've been very lucky throughout my career. I don't worry about getting too old and approaching the end of my career."

"If anything, I am quite looking forward to the day I finally retire."

BLOW FOR TAYLOR

League games, my choice is likely to be severely limited."

Taylor was left with mixed feelings after the F.A. Cup Semi-Final at Villa Park in which Arsenal were knocked out by Manchester United.

He had secretly been hoping for a United victory, because it would have left England Youth team captain Stewart Robson free for the Championships.

But the young Arsenal star limped out of the action at half-time with a badly damaged ankle and has been ruled out for the rest



of the season.

● The full schedule for the Championships can be found on page 35.

Inside football with MARK IRWIN

SCOTLAND and Uruguay will clash in a full international at Hampden Park on September 21. The nations have met on two previous occasions, the South Americans winning 7-0 in a World Cup tie in Switzerland in 1964 and 3-2 at Hampden in 1962. Will it be third time lucky for the Scots?

FOREST defender Chris Fairclough won a pat on the back from manager Brian Clough — for getting himself plastered!

The teenage centre-half sustained an arm injury in a full-blooded tackle with Coventry's Gerry Francis which will keep him out of action for another couple of weeks. He is currently in plaster from his wrist to his elbow.

Said Clough: "It restored my faith in the club when I saw Chris going in like a ton of bricks. It proved to me that players are committed to the club and are not afraid to go in hard."

Happy Birthday

May 8 — John Hawley (Arsenal) 29
David Provan (below, Celtic) 27



May 9 — Billy Hamilton (Burnley) 26
May 11 — John Gregory (QPR) 29
May 12 — Alan Ball (Bristol Rovers) 30
May 13 — Ralph Milne (Dundee Utd) 22
May 14 — Tony Ford (Grimsby) 24

RANGERS' secretary Campbell Ogilvie successfully completed the course of the London Marathon... casting his sponsor, Lord Provost of Glasgow Michael Kelly — an avid Celtic fan — a £260 donation to the Red Cross.



STOP PRESS

● Everton and Manchester City are both keeping a close watch on Stockport's 20-year-old striker Mike Quinn, currently the top scorer in the Fourth Division. Ironically, Quinn joined Stockport only last summer on a free transfer from Wigan.

● Barnsley are prepared to part company with highly-rated centre-half Mick McCarthy at the end of the season. But any clubs with ideas of a player-exchange deal can forget it, Barnsley are only interested in straight cash.

● Sheffield Wednesday are the latest in a long line of English clubs to send a scout to check on the form of Stirling Albion's 19-year-old winger John Colquhoun.

AS WOLVES gradually edge their way to promotion, there's been concern at the club at the lack of goals from £1 million striker Andy Gray.

The Scottish international hasn't scored since January 3, the worst run of his career.

Manager Graham Hawkins said: "There can be no striker in the country who has had so much bad luck around goal."

"One of these days he's just going to trip over the ball and it will trickle in."

"Even without scoring, Andy has been an invaluable member of the team. His determination has been a big factor in our promotion push."

Top Fan

THE BRAUN/SHOOT Fan of the Year award will be presented at a glittering luncheon at London's famous Cafe Royal next Thursday (May 12th).

The top fan of 1983 will be chosen from the 16 Fan of the Week nominations which appeared in SHOOT, by a panel of football personalities including England manager Bobby Robson, Manchester United and England skipper Bryan Robson, Arsenal star John Hollins, Jimmy Greaves and SHOOT Editor Peter Stewart.

Presenter at the lunch will be Frank Bough from BBC TV Breakfast Time.

The silver trophy will be awarded by SHOOT columnist Jimmy Greaves.

The Fan of the Year will also spend a day as guest of the Football Association. He or she will meet Bobby Robson and the team and watch one of England's games at Wembley.

A worthy prize and occasion for a super supporter who sets a shining example to other fans.



'NORMAN AND I WILL GET BETTER — Stapleton

FRANK STAPLETON believes his partnership with young Norman Whiteside still has some way to go match his former Arsenal pairing with Alan Sunderland.

But he's equally confident that his current Manchester United understanding will develop into his best ever.

Says Stapleton: "We had a few early problems, notably when we ran into the same spaces, but we've come on a ton lately and I think we now have an instinctive understanding."

"We've both been scoring a lot and we're also contributing to each other's play. I'm sure that together we can get even better."

ANGRY ALBION

WEST BROMWICH ALBION boss Ron Wylie is angered by reports that Dutch duo Martin Jol and Romeo Zondervan are unhappy at The Hawthorns and could soon be leaving.

"If Martin and Romeo are unhappy it's the first I've heard — and the door to my office is always open," retorted Wylie (right).

"I'm perfectly happy with the effort and attitude of both players."

More good news for Albion is that midfield ace Steve Mackenzie is back in light training following an operation when six inches of bone were grafted from his hip to patch up a pelvis injury.

Mackenzie has been out for most of the season and is aiming to return for the start of next term.





**RAY
WILKINS**
writes
for you

FRANCE '84 MY TARGET!

Having a crack at goal
against Brighton

BACK in the England squad and living in a new house in Cheshire.

That can't be a bad finale to a season in which I tasted the thrill of becoming England's first captain under Bobby Robson and was then knocked sideways when a totally innocent collision at Bournemouth gave me nightmares I never thought I'd experience.

Then, when all seemed lost, I re-asserted myself in the F.A. Cup Semi-Final against Arsenal, which just happened to be watched by the England manager.

I was trying like mad for United that day and to my utter astonishment, when only bad news seemed to want to come my way, I got back into the England squad.

It was only when I trained with Peter Shilton, Trevor Francis and Phil Neal before the Hungary game that I realised how long I'd been away from that sort of company.

It was like starting a new career, just being with the England lads at the Bisham Abbey training headquarters.

Perfect

I don't think there is a better training establishment in the country than Bisham. It was the perfect relaxing set-up for the Hungary game. One of the main differences between Bobby Robson and Ron Greenwood is that Bobby analyses the opposition in the minutest detail.

The pressure has got to me a bit, I must admit that. It's difficult to go out and play relaxed football when you're fighting for your place with club and country.

Although I was only a sub for the Hungary game, I was still thrilled to be back on the England scene.

But I'm in the groove again and will be doing my utmost to consolidate my England place and help steer them to next year's European Championship Finals in France. That has got to be the aim.

It disturbs me that Bobby Robson

is prevented from picking his first choice England team when players are absent through injury.

There are always two sides to a story. The Football League have to get through their domestic programme without a backlog of matches.

But in the end we have to ask ourselves what is most important. It's got to be the national game.

The Manchester United players were delighted to come out of their crunch game against Watford with three points.

It was billed as the big decider to discover the second best team in England.

United deserved their victory, but I really believe Watford's critics should watch what they say about Graham Taylor's side.

For a newly promoted team to have accomplished what Watford have achieved this season is remarkable.

They're in Europe, and Luther Blissett, Watford's first ever England player, has brought unexpected glory to the club.

Watford are a team, rather than a collection of outstanding players. It's difficult playing against this whirlwind outfit. They miss out their midfield, so if you're not careful the ball is rocketing overhead like a tennis match.

I have rarely seen a team run so

many miles as they do. Each player does a marathon every match.

Don't knock the style. Watford are winners — and that's what matters in football.

The game against them at Old Trafford gave me a chance to examine Laurie Cunningham's performance.

Having got to know Laurie well on his half a dozen England appearances, I wondered how he would handle his return to First Division football after exile in Spain.

Let's be honest, he is not fully tuned to the demands of the English League. He is still in fourth gear where he would prefer to be in overdrive, but the ball wizardry is still there.

He wants to stay at United, and I'm fairly confident Ron Atkinson wants to keep him. He finished the game against Watford looking tired out, even though he had not played a full game.

But if the physical slog had left him exhausted, it did nothing to impair that magic he has in front of goal. His first goal for Manchester United, an overhead kick, was typically flamboyant.

Laurie is always looking to go past defenders. Crowd pleasers like Laurie are important to English football, and if he can double back and do some work in midfield when he's not in possession, he could well win an England recall. But these are early days in his comeback.

Now I must pay tribute to a player leaving United. Martin Buchan's free transfer ends a magnificent career at Old Trafford.

He made a marvellous captain, great organiser on the pitch, and off it as well.

He's good enough for two years — in the First Division



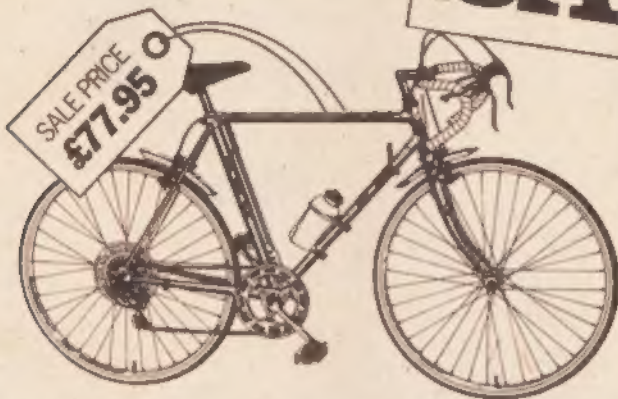
Hello and goodbye! Laurie Cunningham (right) brings his crowd-pleasing qualities to United as Martin Buchan (above) prepares to leave a club he has graced so loyally.



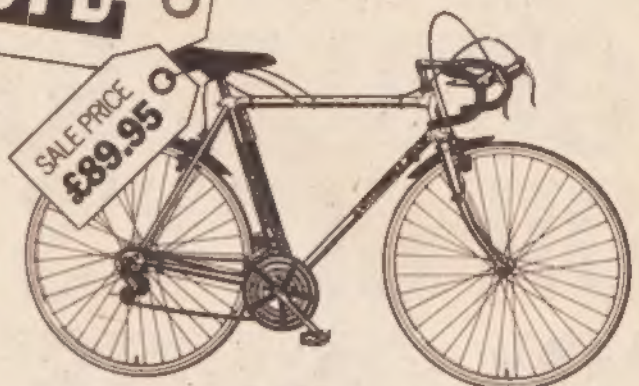
Ray Wilkins

To make our bikes go faster we've put on a big

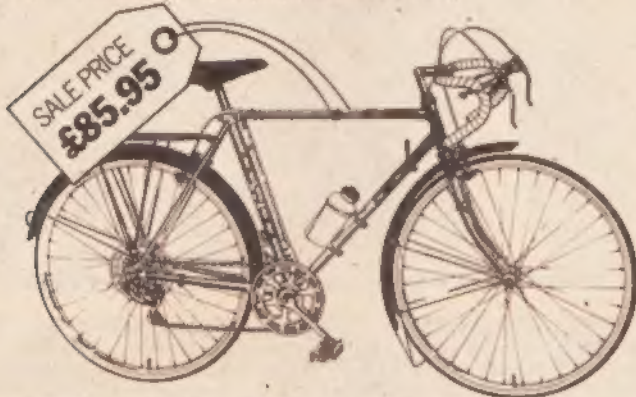
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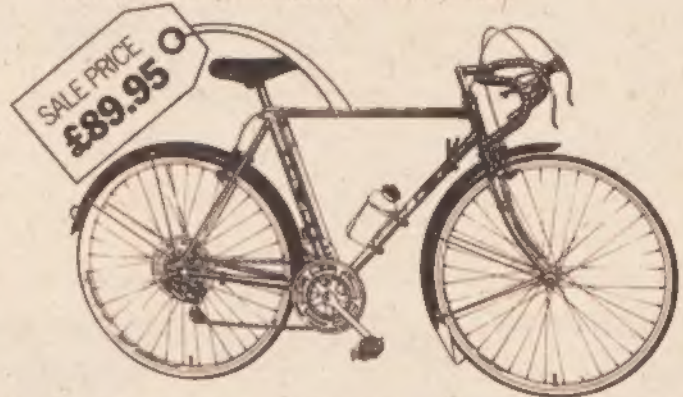
The blue 5 speed **Espada**, with Huret gears, alloy handlebars and stem and dual-lever Weinmann brakes. MRP £107.95.
Normal discount price £87.95. Sale Price £77.95.



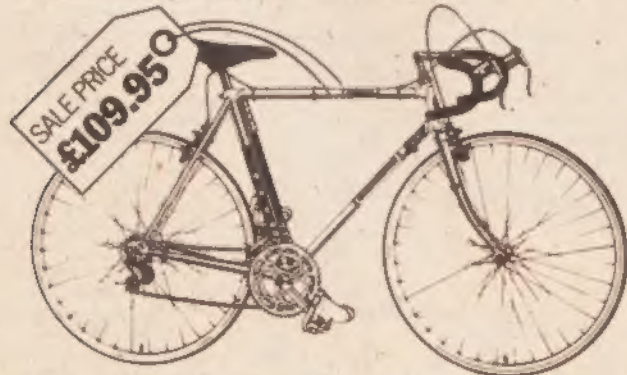
The **Vitesse**, one of our own 10 speed models, with Huret gears plus dual-lever Mafac brakes. MRP £119.95.
Normal discount price £99.95. Sale Price £89.95.



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A close clearance 72° parallel frame and alloy wheels and a host of alloy components make the **International** a lively 10 speed model at an exceptional price. MRP £145.95. Normal discount price £119.95.
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HALFORDS

SEASON's end has brought two delightful surprises into the life of Kevin Bond, the Manchester City defender.

And neither one could have been part of his wildest dreams as he laboured to overcome the animosity that rained down on him week after week at Maine Road.

The first is that those awful jeers have turned into chants of support for the kid who made good.

The second is to hear himself described as a "Colossus" by new City manager John Benson.

Benson, a man famous for his economy of words, was bubbling after City's 2-0 defeat of West Ham, the turning point which showed the Manchester men to be too good to turn into First Division drop-outs.

"Kevin is playing magnificently," said Benson. "He's a Colossus in defence. And when you think of

ing his father in Manchester.

City fans, as did many Norwich followers, thought that young Bond was only in the team because father John was selecting the sides.

John Benson dismisses that nonsensical view like this: "Kevin is in my side on merit. He's starting to look a great player, just the sort of player I need. And when you think about it, he's won everybody over with displays more gutsy than many would understand.

"Why? Because he's been playing in agony! He's had terrible problems with a groin strain and desperately needed a lay-off, but he wouldn't quit. He could easily have cried off, but he battled through on pain-killing injections and a whole lot of courage."

Kevin, 25-years-old, limped once again out of Maine Road for a weekend's rest before another date on the treatment table on Monday and said: "I must be hon-

"Dad has watched me a good few times since he left and he's really chuffed at the way things are working out for me.

"I never doubted my ability. But it seems that dad had to leave before some people would recognise it, too."

The amazing switch in fortunes for Bond, now one of the real favourites at Maine Road, has forced him to re-think his future.

He was determined to leave City. "I was going back to America —

but I know now my future lies here with City. And this is where I'm staying," he says.

Seattle Sounders, who had expressed an interest in Bond, have had to abandon their ambitions.

Their loss could be Manchester City's key to a formidable defence in future. And England's, too. If Bond and Tommy Caton can keep up their barricades in City's cause, Bobby Robson will be forced to compare them with his regular pairings.

DOUBLE JOY FOR CITY'S 'COLOSSUS'

what he has had to overcome, how he has had to win over the City fans, it's a great credit to the lad's character."

Bond admits that if his father had not resigned as City manager he would not have progressed as dramatically as he has done. He might even have packed up and returned to America to resume a Stateside career that he took up in between leaving Norwich and join-

est — since my father left the club I've hit the most consistent form of my career. I'm playing with a lot more freedom right now. I'm no longer the boss' son — I'm Kevin Bond, defender."

He added: "I never thought I'd ever be in a position to say that I could benefit from my father's leaving Manchester City. But I have.



IT now looks certain that England Under-21 right-back Danny Thomas will be the next player to be sold by hard up Coventry as they struggle to make ends meet.

Last to go was Garry Thompson, to West Bromwich Albion, and now Thomas accepts he will soon be on the move after chairman Jimmy Hill's public plea for £250,000 to get the club out of trouble.

He says: "Yes, I could be the next to go. Everything seems to be pointing in that direction now. All the other players whose contracts are due for renewal had discussions before Christmas but nothing has been said to me.

"If the club haven't got any money it is quite apparent they will have to sell someone, and most people seem to think it will be me."

When the time comes for him to move Thomas will be very careful in choosing a new club. His final



choice will be influenced by his desire to graduate to the full England team.

He said: "Nothing will be cut and dried. It is vitally important for me to have experience of European football. Mike Duxbury has moved ahead of me in the England senior squad.

"Disregarding whatever you might feel about our relative merits as players, the fact remains he has played in one Cup Final and is getting set for another this season and will definitely be playing in Europe next season.

THOMAS NEXT TO GO?

"To be fair I need that kind of experience to keep my nose in the international set-up.

"Money is a delicate matter and I don't think I am any different to anybody else when it comes to finances. But I have got every respect for Dave Sexton and if Coventry offered the right sort of money I might be tempted to give it another go."

Thomas, like so many others at Highfield Road, has been down in the dumps since the bottom fell out of Coventry's world after a spell when they climbed into sixth position and were being talked about as European contenders.

He says: "I don't think the Press helped us by talking about Europe so early. To talk about a top six finish at that stage in the season was ridiculous.

"But I accept the ultimate responsibility has been with the players. We became a little bit complacent and the club cannot be blamed if we stopped rolling up our sleeves and working for each other. We must take the blame."

GARY BAILEY TELLS BOBBY ROBSON... 'I'M READY FOR ENGLAND'

GARY Bailey is ready to take over in England's goal whenever manager Bobby Robson gives him the call.

Bailey, who has been a brilliantly successful Manchester United 'keeper, doesn't want to put any pressure on the England boss. Says Bailey: "He has got a tough enough job as it is."

"But from my point of view, I am ready to start my full international career anytime."

"I feel that I've served my apprenticeship and I am no longer a young prospect. I have played more than 200 games for United and I feel, at 24, that I'm at the right age to play international football."

"Peter Shilton and Ray Clemence both got into the England team around that age and that's how they developed into such great goalkeepers."

Robson is already aware of Bailey's progress and sees him as the natural successor to the job of England's number one.

Robson says: "Gary is on his way. He is the best of the young goalkeepers coming through and his chance will come."

"But at the moment, Peter Shilton is still the best goalkeeper in the country and he will stay in the team until Bailey can prove that he is better."

That's a tall order for anyone, as Bailey himself knows. He has enormous respect for Shilton and Ray Clemence, although he is now probably ahead of Clemence in the bid to take the jersey off Shilton's back.

Bailey says: "Shilton is a great 'keeper and I accept that he's the

a wonderful job and they must take a lot of credit for our record."

"I've been pleased with my form this season, though. I feel I've been fairly consistent."

Bailey's worst moment since arriving in the United goal was Arsenal's last minute F.A. Cup Final winner in 1979, for which he accepts some blame.

"I have had to come to terms with that. Otherwise, it would have been always playing on my mind. But I don't accept it was completely my fault."

Bailey has never played badly enough to be in danger of losing his first team spot at Old Trafford. But he went through a sticky spell a couple of years ago.

"My form was very indifferent but the team were going through a bad patch, too, and that obviously puts more pressure on the goalkeeper."

"At least that period taught me that you can't take success for granted."

"I have kept working at my game and I would like to think that I have improved my all round performance."

Bailey has also had a good taste of international football with the England Under-21s. That has put him even closer to the job that he really wants — and when it finally comes, he expects to grab it with both hands!

NEXT WEEK:
Is Bailey good enough?
The players' verdict.



best. But I am confident that I could do a good job in the England side."

Since coming into the United first team, Bailey has been remarkably consistent. This season, he's had a better defensive record than any other First Division 'keeper though he doesn't try to take all the credit for that.

"There are four guys in front of me in the defence who have done

The young 'keepers challenging Bailey for the right to inherit Shilton's England shirt:

Iain Hesford (Blackpool)
Chris Woods (Norwich)
Chris Turner (S'land)

Alex Williams (Man. City)
Andy Goram (Oldham)

Peter Hucker (QPR)
Steve Francis (Chelsea)
John Lukic (Leeds)



**REUBEN
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SHOOT!



TREVOR AYLOTT
Luton Town

SHOOT!

IN the 14th minute of this season's F.A. Cup Semi-Final at Highbury, Brighton were awarded their fifth free-kick when Sheffield Wednesday's David Mills fouled 35 yards from goal.

Tony Grealish stepped up and back-heeled to Jimmy Case standing five yards away.

The former Liverpool star met the ball perfectly to smash a swerving shot into the Wednesday net.

From that moment the game was won and Wednesday manager Jackie Charlton knew it.

"I warned them about Case and his free-kicks," moaned big Jack. "That's how Brighton got to the Semi-Finals."

As proved by Case at Highbury, a free-kick needs to be something special to penetrate the massed defensive screens we see today.

Our Continental and South American counterparts have the answer with their almost effortless ability to bend a ball around the wall.

That skill is not unknown on the British circuit. But the first time strike, together with the direct free-kick, seems to be on the way out. In its place has come variety and surprise.

False

Feints, dummy runs, attempts at concealing the ball by the attacking side, even the false appearance of having messed up a well rehearsed plan. All are part and parcel of the current game.

It probably all started with a little piece of ingenuity by Coventry's Ernie Hunt against League Champions Everton in October, 1970.

Standing just four yards outside the penalty-area, Willie Carr lifted the ball up backwards with his heels and Hunt volleyed a full-blooded drive scorching into the net.

The soccer world was stunned by the move, which was televised

SET-PIECE SPECIALS

In today's game free-kicks can be deadly

and shown continually in the weeks of controversy that followed. But Hunt admitted afterwards that not only was it a move they had been working on for weeks but it had been tried out in a friendly, and by Coventry's youth team, before being introduced to the First Division.

Eventually the law makers decided this ploy was not permissible. Yet as it received so much coverage it was doubtful whether City would ever have got away with it again anyway.

The vital surprise element had gone and it was back to the drawing board.

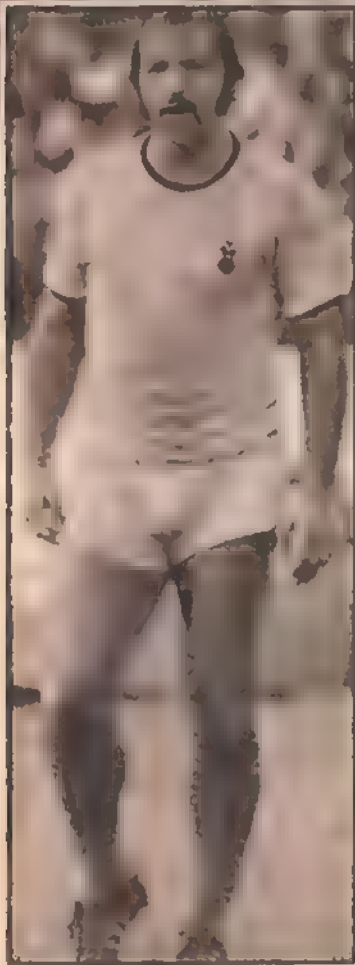
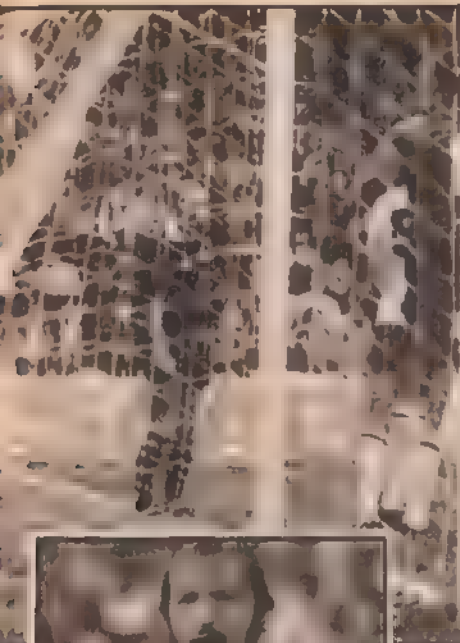
Unabashed, Hunt took his repertoire with him to Bristol City, where he used a team-mate to stick a boot between his legs and scoop the ball up for Ernie to volley home.

Skulduggery is nearly always present in set-pieces, with up to three players actually involved with the ball and the rest out to distract, confuse and even impede the opposition.



Coventry's Ernie Hunt (right) was the first free-kick expert. The latest is Jimmy Case, whose 'special' against Sheffield Wednesday (left) has booked Brighton's place in the F.A. Cup Final. Other players who have found success at dead-ball situations include John Robertson, who fired a memorable World Cup goal for the Scots against New Zealand in Spain last summer (below). And don't forget Dennis Tuohy, whose cracker for Manchester City against Swansea at Maine Road (top of opposite page) must be a candidate for the Goal Of The Season award.





Watford have found great success in recent years by building their own wall in front of the ball, allowing players like Ian Bolton to hammer a shot which is shielded from the goalkeeper until it's on its way into the goal.

Terry Venables, Queens Park Rangers' manager, is responsible for much of the mischief concerning free-kicks today. And his success in this area has produced many vital goals to maintain the club's promotion push from the Second Division.

More and more clubs are seeking to emulate Venables' success rate and Aberdeen used a brilliant piece of cunning during their victory over Bayern Munich in the second-leg of their European Cup-Winners' Cup Quarter-Final at Pittodrie.

Gordon Strachan and John McMaster both dummied at the set-piece, sending howls of derision through the terraces as they appeared to mess things up. But suddenly Strachan crossed and big defender Alex McLeish headed home while the German defenders were still trying to fathom out what was happening.

The Scottish international side used a similar ruse in their World Cup encounter with New Zealand.

Frank Gray and Graeme Souness pretended to bump into each other and, while they were apparently

sorting themselves out and the Kiwi defence regrouped, John Robertson struck the ball into the net.

Wales' famous win over Czechoslovakia at Wrexham in 1977 included another goal from a quickly taken free-kick.

Peter Sayer, bobbing about in the goalmouth, distracted the goalkeeper so completely that Leighton James' centre rolled unchallenged into the net.

The whole situation is a nightmare for goalkeepers who can be made to look complete fools by a tactic that has been worked on at length.

Dangers

England's Peter Shilton is aware of the dangers.

"Set-piece moves have become an important part of the professional game. Managers and coaches plan them much more than they did when I started my professional career 17 years ago," he says.

"Then teams would just hit the ball into the middle and hope for the best," he continues. "Now everyone has a number of well-rehearsed ideas they are keen to try out.

"The result is that more goals are being scored," admits Shilton, who revealed that England

manager Bobby Robson places great emphasis on free-kicks.

"During our preparations for the World Cup in Spain last year we worked on a ploy involving dummy runs at throw-ins. It was from such a move that Bryan Robson put England ahead in the first minute of our opening game against France."

Shilton has seen a great many inventive free-kicks in his time. But the one that stands out for him this season was scored by Manchester City's Dennis Tueart against Swansea.

"The kick was just outside the six-yard box, at an acute angle," recalls Peter. "Dai Davies seemed to have everything covered but suddenly the ball was flicked into the air by Asa Hartford and Tueart volleyed it over the wall and into the top corner.

"It was a free-kick in a million." The endless search for new ideas is a tribute to the sterling defensive capabilities of the British game. As each new kick is introduced ways are found to plug the gap.

But it is becoming increasingly dangerous to commit a foul anywhere near your own penalty-area as football plays an ever-changing game of cat and mouse.

Just ask Sheffield Wednesday keeper Bob Bolder!

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FULHAM'S MINI-MAC



Matchday and Dean gets a bench-eye view of the action.



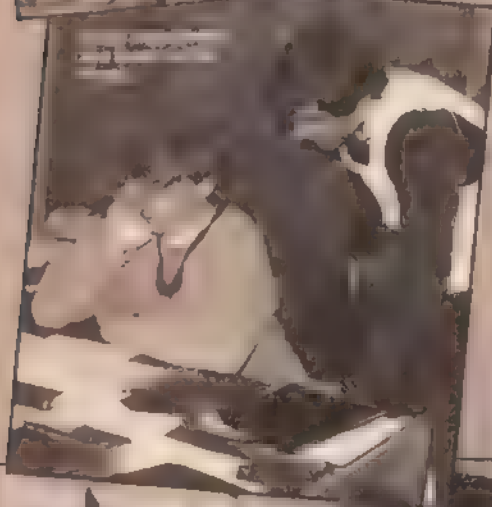
FIFTEEN-year-old Dean Vokes, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, won the chance of a life-time in the recent SHOOT competition sponsored by Biactol.

Dean spent two days at Fulham as assistant to manager Malcolm Macdonald helping him prepare for the vital derby clash with Charlton.

Our prizewinner plays right-back for his school, Colbayns High School Clacton Town youth and was recently selected for Essex schoolboys.

Fulham are to watch Dean in action later this season.

Maybe he will become a future Fulham star. If that happens he can at least claim to have experienced an in-depth view of the club.



Above Some heading tips from Malcolm

Left A few words with Fulham skipper Roger Brown after Fulham's 2-1 victory



Above Dean is presented with an autographed ball Left Pre match pep talk.

'I was lucky'

GARRY BROOKE

(Tottenham)

I'VE got to come clean straight-away and say I was very lucky with my first hat-trick in the First Division. I had scored three goals in the reserves before, but not in first team football, which is always the real test.

It came against Coventry on October 9 at White Hart Lane when we won 4-0.

THE FIRST: A shot at goal which took a deflection. It was a reasonable shot, but the deflection was the crucial factor because Les Sealy didn't have a chance. I think it hit Gary Gillespie but I still claimed it and Coventry didn't argue.

THE SECOND: Probably the best of the three. I was 20 yards out and knew what I wanted to do — shoot! It flew into the bottom corner and I don't think Sealy saw it until it hit the net.

THE THIRD: Again, a touch of luck about it. It was a twice-taken penalty because the referee claimed Sealy had moved. I didn't know whether he had or not, but I made up my mind pretty quickly to change the side I had put it. Sealy went the same way as before and was well beaten.

I was obviously meant to score three that day, because I've had other days where I've had three much better shots and not scored even once.

I was pleased about it at the time, but the real pleasure came afterwards. With what happened in the car crash, it was nice to have the chance to reflect on one really happy moment from my season.



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So when a modern striker scores three goals in one game it is an achievement worth celebrating.

Because although the game has produced exciting football and more thrills and goals than for some time, the ability to overcome highly-skilled defences three times in one match is exceptional.

Here we share the magic moments of their magic moments.

TERRIFIC

'Club before country'

LUTHER BLISSETT

(Watford)

I SUPPOSE I ought to select the hat-trick I scored for England against Luxembourg at Wembley back in December. That was a memorable event for me, yet I'd prefer to pick the goals I scored in our 8-0 win over Sunderland in the League match at Vicarage Road in September.

In fact I scored four that day, and there were some good goals among them!

THE FIRST: A through ball from Les Taylor reached me and I brought it down and shot home from the edge of the area. I was pleased with the control involved.

THE SECOND: A cross from Nigel Callaghan which I headed home with real power.

THE THIRD: A free-kick, half cleared by the Sunderland defence, was chipped in to the far post. I had to make ground to reach it, flung myself and connected with a diving header for my hat-trick.

THE FOURTH: A shot from inside the box. I rated it as the best day I'd ever had in my career. It was such a good game for us and the finishing was so good.

It's always special when you score any goal, but when you score your first hat-trick in League football, which that was, you have a wonderful feeling.

It's been a great season for my club as well as myself and that's what has made it so enjoyable. It's OK doing well yourself but if your team is struggling there is nothing like the same pleasure. I bet someone like Bob Latchford of Swansea would agree.



'The third goal is the easiest'

I'm very pleased to say my trophy cupboard is getting a bit congested at home because I make a special point of keeping the match ball when I score a hat-trick.

I've got about five footballs in there now, signed by the teams I've been involved with when I've scored a hat-trick. And I have never lost the thrill of scoring three goals in a match.

My latest came this season against Middlesbrough at Loftus Road, on March 5.

THE FIRST: A close-range shot, a tap-in after a corner had been headed down to me.

THE SECOND: We broke down the left and when I got the ball further forward and inside, I vol-

leyed over the top of the goalkeeper to score. It was easily the best of the three — I was delighted to see that one go in.

THE THIRD: Another attack down the left with John Gregory involved. His cross beat both the full-back and the 'keeper and when it reached me on the far post low down, I fired it into the net.

One thing I've learned about scoring hat-tricks is that if you get two, there's no way you should put pressure on yourself by trying hard for the third. Don't force it, because it will come naturally if it's meant to come. Remain patient and wait for that last chance. Flying around the pitch looking for the ball won't help.

CLIVE ALLEN

(QPR)

In all the hat-tricks I have scored, the third and last goal has always been the easiest of the three. I've noticed that has been true with other players as well.



TRIPLES!

'Everton made it special'

IAN RUSH

(Liverpool)

GETTING three goals in one match is a magic moment for any player. But scoring four in a derby game, especially when it's an Everton-Liverpool derby, really is something to think about.

I'll never forget the day I did it — November 5, earlier this season. But I only scored one in the first-half and a hat-trick wasn't really in my mind until I realised I had almost 40 minutes left to score a third goal.

THE FIRST: Alan Hansen set it up with a good ball which I ran on to and shot home. But after that Everton's Glenn Keeley was sent-off and they were a little bit disrupted.

THE SECOND: Again, I took a pass from Hansen and got away to score as their goalkeeper, Neville Southall, came out to meet me.

THE THIRD: The same pattern created the third goal, and even my fourth. I think Everton knew they had to push up and we caught them out by breaking quickly. I ran

in the third and felt the surge of excitement about the same moment as the 52,000 fans. It was a marvellous feeling.

It was the first time I had scored four goals since my school days. I just couldn't believe it when I sat in the dressing room afterwards.

It was even more remarkable because I hadn't scored for seven matches going into that game. But I never lost confidence which was the secret. Everything went right for me on the day, even if poor old Everton suffered badly.

I scored more hat-tricks later in the season against Coventry and Notts County, but I'd always pick that one as the best and the most special. Being against Everton made it special.

Rush drives past Everton defenders Billy Wright and Brian Marrow for his second goal at Goodison Park.



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PRACTICE with the professionals... there's an idea to conjure with. At the Sandfield International Soccer School stars like Gary Shaw (above right), Cyrille Regis (above left), Tony Godden, Alan Smith and Steve Lynex are at hand to help the F.A. coaches on the courses.

Our two prizewinners will each be able to take a friend on a week's course at Sandfield. They can go on any week between Sunday 19th June and Friday 26th August, 1983. Rail fares to and from the centre will be included in the prize so all you'll need is your football kit. So, all you lads over 12-years-old, pick up a pen and read on!

- When arranging his defensive wall, the goalkeeper should ensure it doesn't
A — block his view
B — have gaps in it.
- _____ is a desirable quality in any midfield player.
A — 'Good in the air'
B — 'Accurate passing'
- The experienced midfield player will take every opportunity to
A — supply balls for the forwards.
B — supplement the defence.
- A good striker should always
A — be wary of moving into position.
B — be wary of the offside trap.
- When shooting, a striker should take into account
A — the direction of the wind.
B — the position of the goalkeeper.
- It is the _____ at Sandfield that produces such good results
A — many star names
B — wide and varied programmes.
- A Sandfield course will most likely
A — improve your all-round footballing skills.
B — help you specialise in your particular position.
- _____ is the sign of a good goalkeeper.
A — Agility.
B — Anticipation.
- A winger should always be prepared to
A — chase a loose ball.
B — shoot.
- A _____ free-kick often gets results.
A — quick.
B — rehearsed.

HOW TO ENTER

Here are ten incomplete statements about football. With each are two words or phrases (lettered A and B). Which one most aptly or accurately completes the statement — A or B? OR would both be equally suitable?

Under each statement number on your entry coupon write the key letter of the alternative you select for that statement. BUT if you consider both are equally apt — neither being more so than the other — indicate with a cross (X). For example: If you select 'block his view' to complete statement No. 1, put A in the first space. If 'have gaps in it' is preferred, put B, but if you consider both are equally apt or accurate, put X.

Having completed all ten statements in this way, complete the coupon with your own full name and address. Also, if you would like a brochure about the Soccer School please complete the bottom coupon. Post your completed entry in a sealed envelope to: SHOOT/SANDFIELD INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION, Lavington House, 25 Lavington Street, London, SE1 0PF, to arrive not later than Monday, 23rd May, 1983. Do not enclose any correspondence or matter other than the entry coupon and brochure application form.

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Prizes must be accepted as offered and there can be no alternative awards (cash or otherwise) and prizewinners must supply parental consent before the prizes can be awarded. In the event of a tie then those tying will take part in a further test of skill to be held by post to determine the eventual winners.

Entries entering after the closing date or received incomplete, illegible, mutilated, altered or in any other way not complying exactly with the instructions and which will be disqualified. No responsibility can be accepted for any entry lost or delayed in the post or elsewhere. Decisions of the judges and of the Editor in all other matters affecting the competition will be final and legally binding. No correspondence can be entered into.

Winners will be notified and the result will be published in SHOOT.

The magnificent 'Addo'

IF the film moguls ever decide to do a remake of the 'Miracle Worker', people in Newport have no doubt who should land the starring part — Colin Addison!

For Addison is back in South Wales and working his second miracle with the unfashionable Somerton Park club.

A look at the Third Division table is enough to show what a magnificent job 'Addo' is doing. Newport are up among the leaders, pushing hard for promotion.

And you would need a very long memory to recall the last time Newport were in the Second Division. That was in 1946 — the year League Football resumed after the War.

Now Newport are poised for the big breakthrough again — thanks to the man whose first miracle saved them from going out of business altogether.

That was six years ago, when the vultures were hovering over Somerton Park, ready to pick at the bones of a dying club.

'Addo' took over in January, 1977, with Newport 14 points adrift at the bottom of Division Four and looking certs to lose their League status.

"Things could not have been worse at that time," he recalls. "Everybody was writing us off — with justification — and we all knew that if we had finished in the bottom four we would almost certainly have gone out of the League."

Ironic twist

"But we put a few good results together and it all depended on our last two games of the season. Both were against Workington — away on the Saturday, at home on the Tuesday."

"We won them both 1-0 to get out of the bottom four — and by an ironic twist it was Workington who were voted out of the League. They must have hated us after that."

After pumping new life into Newport Addison moved on to West Bromwich Albion and Derby before Newport called him back in February last year. And he again found himself locked in a grim struggle — this time to avoid relegation from the Third Division.

But this season has been completely different. Addison, with no money to spend, picked up some shrewd free transfer signings and his reshaped side have been among the front runners all season.

"We are not up there because of luck," says Addison. "We have done it on merit and it's been achieved through the talent and ability of the players and good management on the part of myself and my assistant, Bobby Smith, the former Swindon boss."



FERGIE'S FURIES

EXCLUSIVE

JIM LEIGHTON — Few players are more dedicated to their job. He has a marvellous pair of hands and has worked hard to overcome one or two slight deficiencies, such as dealing with crosses to the far post. Jim's the quiet type, the same every day, but at the same time solid and dependable. Scottish 'keepers get a fair bit of stick from South of the border but I'd rather have Jim than any of them in England. He has grabbed his chance and should be in the international side for years to come.

BRYAN GUNN — His favourite pastime is patience — and I'm not talking about the card game. He's Jim Leighton's deputy which means his chances are few and far between. I know there will come a time when he gets fed up waiting and might want to move elsewhere. He's a good 'keeper and also a fair outfield player — we played him at centre-half in a youth tournament last year and he was outstanding!

STUART KENNEDY — When I was a senior player at Falkirk, Stuart was an up-and-coming youngster. He's 29 now but still in terrific shape. A non-drinker and non-smoker, I can see him in the team for another five years. He has tremendous fitness and speed. In fact, he's so quick he is always first in the queue when the bonuses are being negotiated. We call him 'The Counsellor' because he's the one the young lads go to for advice. But seriously, he is a very dedicated professional who had to overcome a bad pelvic injury a few years back. He also has a shrewd business brain and dabbles a bit in the property market.

DOUG ROUGVIE — Big Dougie's something of a cult figure with the fans. He's a real character who can do no wrong in their eyes. They've even nicknamed him 'Rummenigge' after a recent goal! At 6' 2½ and 14 stone, when he hits someone they know about it, but there's no way he's a dirty player. He has a tremendous influence on the team and the fans with his sheer enthusiasm and he poses a threat to opponents when he ventures upfield, as his record of goals shows. Really he should be playing as a centre-half but has slotted in well at left-back where his pace comes in useful. Despite being something of a giant he has very small feet — his boots are only size 7½!

ALEX MCLEISH — No one will beat Alex in the air. That's where he is so dominating but he's also an unusually good footballer for a centre-half. He's quiet by nature but his tackles carry the roar of a lion. I think he's close to shaking off Alan Hansen, a player I rate very highly, to become a regular for Scotland. The lads call him 'Shuggy' because that's what he was called in the match programme at Airdrie a few years back and the nickname has stuck ever since. He was training to be a chartered accountant but his football progress was so quick that he packed in his studies.



WILLIE MILLER — I really can't believe how consistent Willie is for this club. He's by far the best penalty box defender I've ever seen and he's improved as an all round footballer. And what a captain! He's a marvellous influence on everyone at Pittodrie and still as quiet as the day he joined the club. What's his secret? Maybe it's got something to do with the fact that he always has 12 hours sleep the night before a game. Sleeping is his number one hobby.

GORDON STRACHAN — A tremendous personality, on and off the field. Gordon is never stuck for an answer and even though we've crossed swords now and again I have a tremendous respect for him. I think next season will see him at his peak as I can see him maturing as a player. There was a time when he found it difficult to cope with the hatchet men and he'd react the wrong way. Now he just dusts himself down and gets on with it. He's so good he could walk into any team in Europe.

NEIL SIMPSON — A country boy and down to earth with it. I get the feeling that no matter how good he becomes or how many honours he wins, he'll never be affected by success. He has a terrific appetite for football — and food. He's a tireless worker who never stops running and he must be on the verge of a place in the Scotland team. He gets a fair bit of stick from the other lads for the way he eats — two bowls of soup and a big plate of mince and tatties is his favourite. His football is like his food — simple and uncomplicated.

Aberdeen manager ALEX FERGUSON reveals amazing new facts about his exciting squad

NEALE COOPER — Another youngster who was always meant to play for Aberdeen. He's a former ball boy at Pittodrie and I think he's been hanging around the place since he was about nine or ten! I see him as our sweeper of the future so he'll have to be patient until Willie Miller calls it a day. But he's such a natural that he can play in midfield without any problem. Franz Beckenbauer raved about him and there's a lot of Beckenbauer in Neale's game. The only thing I don't like about him is his taste in music — it drives me mad on the bus!

DOUGIE BELL — He was at St. Mirren when I was manager and I put him in the team just before I left. I couldn't believe it when they gave him a free transfer and I didn't wait to ask. You very rarely get two words out of him but his dedication extends to coming back for extra training in the afternoon. He's shown a terrific improvement since coming here and it's all down to the boy himself. He's like an engine the way he keeps going and he makes some great positive runs from deep positions. He prefers the short game but if he could knock 40 and 50 yard passes he'd be among the best midfield players in the country.

JOHN MCMASTER — His career was interrupted when he completely severed knee ligaments against Liverpool in 1980 and it took him the best part of a year to get fit again. He has one of the best football brains I've ever come across and can play in midfield or at full back. He's done really well to recover the way he has and he's next in line for a testimonial which he thoroughly deserves.

ANDY WATSON — If there's one player at the club I feel sorry for, it has to be Andy. We're so well off for players that I can no longer guarantee him a place, but when Eddie Gray wanted to take him to Leeds it didn't take me long to turn down his £70,000 offer. Andy gave us that extra something we were missing when we introduced him into the team the year we won the Championship and I don't want to lose him. We call him 'Winker' — he goes around winking at everyone and I wonder if it might get him into trouble one day!

MARK MCGHEE — Without a doubt the best buy I'm ever likely to make. He won't be 28 until a fortnight after the Final but already he's been to England twice as a player. He started as a kid at Bristol City, was released and joined Morton and then Newcastle paid £150,000 to take him South again. I got him for £65,000 and he's been terrific value. He has good balance, good control and his major strength is being able to turn in the box and get shots on target. He takes a lot of punishment but he's never injured and is always available. When he came here he was maybe too much of an individual and we've succeeded in making him a better team player. One for the big occasion and a potential match-winner against Real Madrid.

ERIC BLACK — I had only been at Pittodrie a few days when Eric's schoolteacher rang me and recommended him. I went to see him playing and couldn't wait to sign him. He's not that tall — about 5' 9" — but he has this rare talent of being able to hang in the air and beat the tallest of defenders. He's probably the fastest player on the books and at 19 he only needs to keep his feet on the ground to go all the way to the top.

PETER WEIR — A lot of people might have thought I was mad paying out £330,000 for Peter two years ago but I knew what I was doing. I'd had him at St. Mirren and I saw him as the final piece of the jigsaw at Pittodrie. He's been worth every penny of that fee. He's one of the best two-footed players around, he can beat defenders at speed and he can send in the most inviting crosses, yet for some reason he still lacks confidence. His style is a bit similar to John Robertson but he has the advantage of being quicker and I think he gets through more work.

JOHN HEWITT — He's had a nightmare season with injuries but although he'd only started eight games by the time we played Waterschei in the Semi-Final he had also scored eight goals. When he was a schoolboy I wanted him for St. Mirren and then when I moved to Aberdeen I spent a lot of nights at his house before I finally persuaded him to join us. He's fast, brave and a good finisher. I stuck him on as substitute in the last ten minutes against Bayern Munich and he hit the winning goal. What a player to have in reserve!

Aberdeen	
FC Sion	H 7-0 Black 2, Strachan, Hewitt, Simpson, McGhee, Kennedy
	A 4-1 Hewitt, Miller, McGhee 2
Dynamo Tirsna	H 1-0 Hewitt
	A 0-0
Lech Poznan	H 2-0 McGhee, Weir
	A 1-0 Bell
Bayern Munich	A 0-0
	H 3-2 Simpson, McLeish, Hewitt
Waterschei	H 5-1 Black, Simpson, McGhee 2, Weir
	A 0-1
Total P10 W7 D2 L1 GF23 GA5	
Scorers: McGhee 6, Hewitt 4, Black 3, Simpson 3, Weir 2, Strachan 1, Kennedy 1, Miller 1, Bell 1, McLeish 1	

The Route to Gothenburg

Real Madrid	
Basle Mario	A 0-0 —
	H 5-2 Juanito, Isidro, G Hernandez, Santillana, Meigod
Uppsal Dosza	H 3-1 Santillana 2, Juanito
	A 1-0 Santillana
Inter Milan	A 1-1 Gallego
	H 2-1 Selguero, Santillana
Austria Vienna	A 2-2 Santillana, San Jose
	H 3-1 Santillana 2, Juanito
Total P8 W5 D3 L0 GF17 GA8	
Scorers: Santillana 8, Juanito 3, Isidro 1, Hernandez 1, Meigod 1, Gallego 1, Selguero 1, San Jose 1	

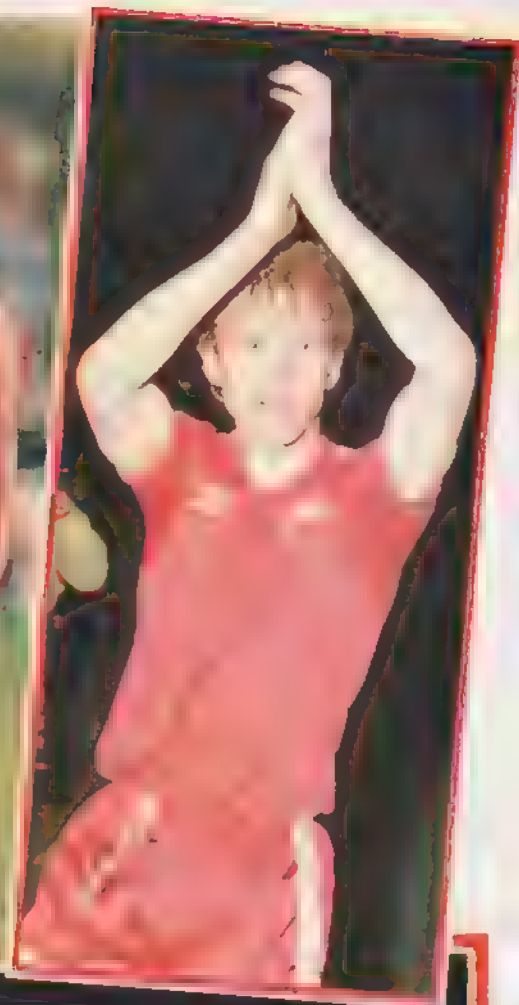
The DAZZLING



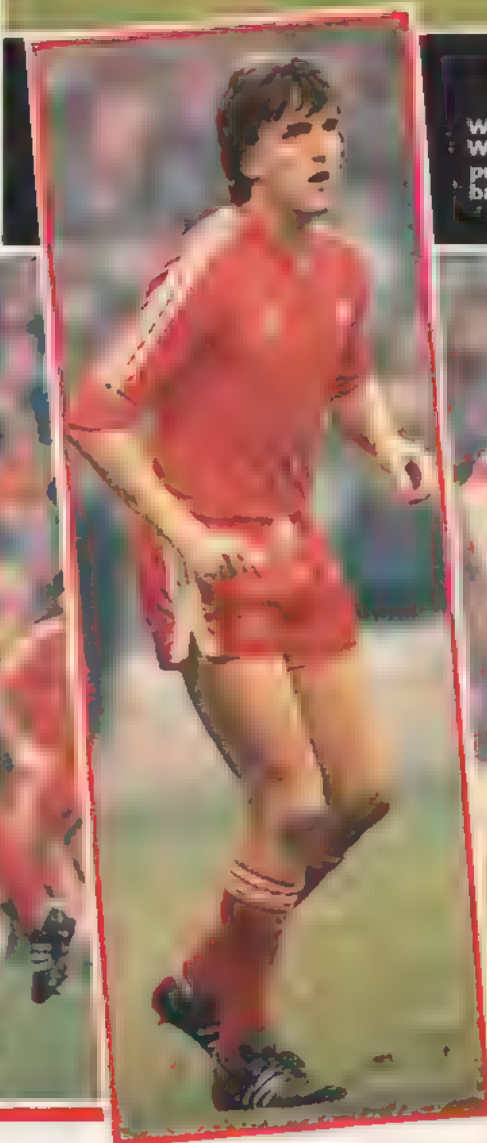
Jim Leighton's reliability has made him Scotland's undisputed choice in goal.



...DONS!



With the assistance of Gordon Strachan (above, left), Peter Weir (left) and Alex McLeish (above), Aberdeen are now preparing for a remarkable Cup Final double as well as battling for the Premier Division Championship.



CELTIC BOOST DONS



REMEMBER Lisbon in 1967! That's what Aberdeen manager Alex Ferguson will tell his players just before they go out to face Real Madrid.

The reference, of course, is to Celtic's defeat (above) of Inter Milan 16 years ago when they became the first British club to win the European Cup.

Ferguson says: "Celtic's victory was as much down to bravery as skill. They went out and had a go and I want my players to do the same."

"Sure we respect Real Madrid, but we don't fear them. I don't want any of my lads to be overawed by the occasion or we might be beaten before we get started."

"The players have grown in confidence as we have progressed in Europe this season and I

know they have a tremendous belief in themselves

"I want them to be positive and not sit back. Their attitude must be right."

Ferguson wasted no time in spying on the Spanish giants. After celebrating his own team's success in booking a Final place, he snatched a few hours sleep and was soon on his way to Madrid.

While the Aberdeen party flew back from Belgium to Scotland, the 41-year-old Pittodrie boss was en route to Spain for the second-leg of Real's Semi-Final with Austria Vienna at the magnificent Bernabeu Stadium.

After seeing Real's 3-1 win, which took them through 5-3 on aggregate, Ferguson quickly made plans to watch them in action again, this time accompanied by his assistant Archie Knox.

Ferguson adds: "Archie has done a super job this season. His reports on our European opponents have been first class. We like to do our homework as thoroughly as possible and leave nothing to chance."

"Real had several players missing through injury the first time I saw them and conditions were deplorable. From what I saw they have a better midfield than Bayern Munich, who are the best side we've played in Europe so far."

Ferguson has made no secret of the fact that the Cup-Winners' Cup is the trophy he most wants from a season in which Aberdeen have been chasing a hat-trick of major honours.

And he points out: "We have a great chance. After all, we're in the Final. We'll never have a better chance!"

Aberdeen's European record					
P	W	D	L	F	A
48	23	10	15	88	60
During Alex Ferguson's reign as manager					
P	W	D	L	F	A
26	12	6	7	45	26

AWAYDAY SPECIAL

ABERDEEN'S success in reaching the Cup-Winners' Cup Final might have raised a few eyebrows throughout Europe. But Dons defender Alex McLeish (right) isn't the least surprised.

He says: "I've felt confident all along that we would get this far. All the lads have been aware of it for the last three years or so."

"We've never been beaten by mugs in Europe and when we have lost it has only been narrowly. We're well equipped to play away from home with the players we have at Pittodrie and that's obviously an essential requirement in Europe."

"We can play it tight when we have to but that isn't really our style. We like to win possession early and take the game to our opponents. It's a system that has done us proud so far and I don't see us changing against Real Madrid."

● **FOOTNOTE** — In Aberdeen's last seven European campaigns only one side — RWD Molenbeek of Belgium — have failed to reach the Final after accounting for The Dons.



EXCLUSIVE

di Stefano REAL



THE sight of Alfredo di Stefano leading out Real Madrid in a European Final is sure to stir the hearts of fans whose memories stretch back a couple of decades to the great Real Madrid side that won five European Cups on the trot with exhilarating, attacking football.

Di Stefano still holds the club record of 49 European Cup goals, and is now determined to revive those glory days by leading Real to their first European triumph for 17 years.

Having led Valencia to a penalty-kick win over Arsenal in the 1980 Final, he's in line for a unique double of leading two different Spanish sides to Cup-Winners' Cup triumph over two different British sides in the space of three years! Ironically, the barrier



between Real's 56-year-old manager and his goal is a side from Scotland — a country that's always held special memories for him.

It was in Glasgow that he and Puskas shared seven goals in the unforgettable 1960 European Cup Final. And it was Celtic — European Champions at the time — who were invited to Madrid in June, 1967 for di Stefano's testimonial in the Bernabeu Stadium.

Madrid's

REAL'S proud record of six European Cups, one Intercontinental Cup, 20 League titles and 15 Spanish Cup triumphs speaks for itself.

But don't expect this modern Real Madrid to play the same vintage football as in the glory days of di Stefano, Puskas, Gento and company.

Since di Stefano took over last summer, the side has sacrificed spectacular, exhibition football and got on with a practical job of looking for the right results, with the emphasis on sheer hard work and a never-say-die attitude.

While other clubs, such as Barcelona, have gone for high-priced imports of flair players like Maradona and Schuster, Real have opted for honest, hard-working team men like Uli Stenke and Johnny Metgod.

Real's success this term has been built on a defence that's conceded less than one goal per game, and an impressive home record of having conceded only one draw and one defeat in the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

Away from home, di Stefano has swapped his 4-3-3 formation for a more cautious 4-4-2, with the result that Real have won seven and drawn 12 of their 22 outings.

While the skills of Juanito and the drive of Stenke capture most of the headlines, newcomers like Gallego, Bonet and Pineda are beginning to make names for themselves, and The Dons will need to bear in mind that no fewer than 14 of the Real squad have got their names on the scoresheet this season.

In Gothenburg, the Spaniards will be aiming to close down Aberdeen's key players with man-to-man marking and look for goals on the counter-attack.

Cautious

On a neutral ground, di Stefano may even prefer his cautious 4-4-2 formation, using Isidro as a false winger and hoping to pin down the Scots in midfield.

Real are desperate for revenge against British sides, having lost the 1971 Cup-Winners' Cup Final against Chelsea and the 1981 European Cup Final against Liverpool.

They have never won any European competition except the European Cup, they haven't won a title for 17 years, they've never beaten a British side in a Final, Uli Stenke has lost two European Cup Finals against Liverpool; and Johnny Metgod lost a UEFA Cup Final against Ipswich in 1981.

plans a REVIVAL

YES, I've always admired the way the Scots play their football. It's a noble football full of guts, commitment and aggression. They never forget that soccer is all about scoring goals, and all the players work for each other.

Everybody's telling me about Gordon Strachan, and he had a good World Cup in a very difficult group. But if you start worrying about Strachan, you'll find that a man you know nothing about will score three goals against you.

Football teams aren't about one man. The good teams are the ones that rely on all 11 men — not just one. Aberdeen are one of those teams. They're going to give us a good game.

You reckon it might be important that I've got more experience of European Finals than Alex Ferguson? That's rubbish. You won't see di Stefano or Ferguson on the scoresheet in Gothenburg. The players are the ones who are going to win or lose that game, just the same as any

other

I was very cautious about Waterschei. I'd sized them up as a very good, solid outfit that would give us a lot of problems.

That 5-1 win by Aberdeen at Pittodrie was a big surprise to me. In that respect, at least we have the chance to take on Aberdeen on a neutral ground, because playing British teams on their own grounds is a horrendous experience.

What have I done to change Real Madrid since I arrived? Well, I've picked a team for every match. I've made a few substitutions. I've tried to make sure the players are all in optimum condition to play the sport.

I've tried to persuade all my men that the football stadium is their place of work. I've tried to teach them that they've all got an important job on the production line in our factory.

And I've tried to ensure that each man does his job to the best of his ability. Apart from that, I haven't got a magic wand.

Confident of winning? If we weren't, we'd stay in Madrid and save the air fares!

Mean Machine



REAL MAESTROS

AGUSTIN Rodriguez (Age 23). Eight seasons with Real since joining the youth team. First choice 'keeper until dropped in March after run of bad mistakes. Back in side since Garcia Remon's injury. Youth, Under-21, Under 23 and Olympic international.

Mariand GARCIA REMON (32). Nicknamed the 'Odessa Cat' after a heroic 'keeping performance v USSR in one of his two games for Spain, and renowned for his ferine reflexes. Recovered from a ligament operation only to damage the same knee in the Semi Final against Austria Vienna.

JUAN JOSE Jinebez (25). Right-back. Signed last summer for £275,000 from Cadiz, and nicknamed 'Jesus' on account of his hair and beard. All-action attacking full back who's now won three Spanish caps.

José Antonio CAMACHO (27). Left-back. One of only three players who've survived in the national team since the World Cup fiasco. Strong, fierce tackling and happiest when given a man-to-man marking job.

Johnny METGOD (25). Sweeper. Signed from Dutch side AZ 67 last summer for £350,000 and now providing strength and calmness at the heart of the Real defence. Watch for his powerful runs upfield, his long-range shooting and bazooka free-kicks. 21 caps for Holland.

Francisco BONET (23). Stopper. A £265,000 buy from Elche last summer who's zoomed straight into the Real first team and the Spanish national side. Lanky, strong and super skilled, he's let down by his clumsy tackling and has picked up a record 15 cautions this term.

José Antonio SALGUERO (23). Signed by Real's nursery side as a sweeper from Malaga in 1980, promoted to the first team squad this term, and used by di Stefano as utility defender.

Alfonso FRAILE (23). Joined Real's nursery side from Rayo Vallecano in 1981. Utility defender/midfielder who's happiest in the number five shirt. Works hard, tackles firmly and supports his attackers well. One goal.

Isidoro SAN JOSE (27). Right-back or midfield. 1978 World Cup veteran who, like Camacho, has done well to recover from serious ligament injuries. Chunky, temperamental and skilful, he's been with Real for 15 years since joining their junior team.

ANGEL De Los Santos (30). Midfield. It's hard to live up to a name like Angel Of The Saints, and it's hard running, hard-tackling man-to-man expert certainly doesn't! A tireless worker, he's an important cog in the Real machine.

Ricardo GALLEGO (24). Midfield. A Glenn Hoddle-style home-grown talent who's been with Real since he was 14. Super-skilled, good distribution and a good long-range shot.

Ulrich STIELIKE (28). The World Cup Finalist may play sweeper for West Germany, but di Stefano uses him in midfield at Real. Aggression, work rate, punch and goals. Joined Real from Borussia Monchengladbach in 1977, and he's determined to break a long run of losing in Finals (against Italy and Liverpool, (twice)).

Francisco GARCIA HERNANDEZ (28). Midfield. Nicknamed 'Spider Man' because of long legs. Talented left-footer who, despite an impressive



scoring rate in few appearances, can't nail down a regular place.

Vicente DEL BOSQUE (32). Midfield. 'The Professor' is Real's veteran playmaker, capable of putting a foot on the ball and setting up chances for his front-runners.

Miguel Angel PORTUGAL (27). Midfield. Transfer-listed last summer, 'Portu' has, however, proved a useful member of the Real squad, playing as a false winger in the number 11 shirt when di Stefano wants to dominate in midfield.

Juan Gomez JUANITO (28). Right winger. Spain's most controversial and talented footballer. Superb ball skills, a lively mind and intelligent finishing. When he's inspired, he's unstoppable. His major handicap is his own explosive temperament that's brought him a lot of heartache — and suspensions.

Carlos Alonso SANTILLANA (30). Central striker, and one of the best headers of a ball in Europe. Has scored nearly 200 goals in 12 years with Real, including 19 this term.

ISIDRO Diaz (29). Utility striker finally accepted by the Real crowd after years as target for the boo-boys. Di Stefano likes his speed, work rate and efficient finishing, though cartilage problems kept him out of the side until mid-April.

Francisco PINEDA (24). Joined Real as a 16-year-old centre-forward, and joined the senior squad in 1980. A good battler and finisher, 'Paco' has been used this term alongside Santillana as twin strike force. Real's top scorer in the League with 11 goals, but hasn't hit the net in Europe.

Andrés Alonso ITO (22). Right or left-winger in the Juanito mould. Brilliant individual skills, but has had only a handful of chances to display them.

[illegible]

Euro Champs

Now that the European Championship is well under way, I'd like to know the previous winners?

**SACK THIAM FOH,
EAST MALAYSIA**

● The very first competition culminated in 1960, Sack, with Russia beating Yugoslavia 2-1 in the Final in Paris

1964 saw Spain beat Russia 2-1 in Madrid, 1968 saw Italy beat Yugoslavia 2-0 in Rome; and 1972 saw West Germany beat Russia 3-0 in Brussels

The 1976 Final in Belgrade was a real cliff-hanging thriller with Czechoslovakia beating West Germany in a penalty shoot-out after extra-time couldn't separate the teams from a 2-2 deadlock.

The West Germans, though, had better luck in the last Final, in Rome in 1980, beating Belgium 2-1.

SHORT PASSES

● Manchester United's record League scorer in a season is Dennis Viollet, with 32 First Division goals in 1959-60

(PATRICK CARRAGHER, *Elre*)
● Trevor Brooking has played 47 full Internationals for England, scoring five goals.

(PAUL MARTIN, Morpeth)
 ● Ian Rush scored his first League goal for Liverpool in the 3-0 win over Leeds on 10th October, 1981
(SREE KUMAR PILLAI, West Malaysia)

NOW — TRY TO BEAT THE EXPERT

F A Cup Finals provide the subject for the question from DAVID PINNEY of Backwood in Gwent, this week

He asks "Which club won at Wembley since the War, with full internationals from five different countries in their team?"

Short of "cheating" by wading through the team lists season by season, it had me beaten.

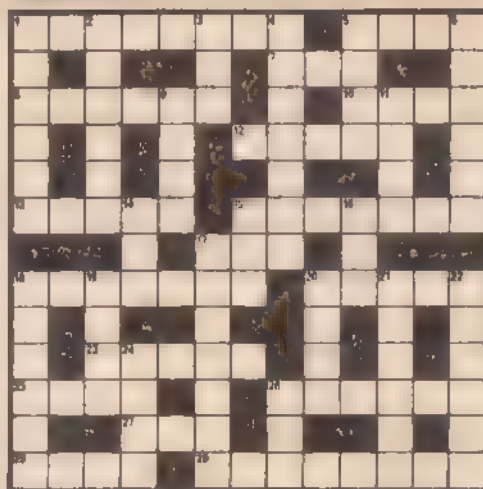
So David comes up with the answer in the one up of the fine Newcastle side which beat Arsenal 3-0 in 1952.

The players concerned were

that superstar centre forward Jackie Milburn of England, Bobby Mitchell and Frank Brennan (Scotland), Billy Foulkes (Wales), Alf McMichael (Northern Ireland) — and the scorer of the winning goal George Robledo who played for Chile against England in the final stages of the 1950 World Cup.

● Every week we give you the opportunity to put the Expert on the spot by doing a Q & A session you believe he can't answer. Receive a special discount with the answer. If he has no answer, you win \$100!

SHOOT! CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- (11) Joe —, Seattle Sounders goalkeeper (6)
- (12) Race — e Ground, Wrexham (4)
- (13) Graham T —, Shrewsbury boss.
- (14) David —, Arsenal defender (6)
- (15) Jimmy —, Brighton midfielder player (4)
- (16) — Stadium home of Cambridge (5)
- (17) Gordon — m-th (Brighton) and Lee — ay (Coventry) (5)
- (18) — Town Second Division club (6)
- (19) — H-borough grounds, Sheffield Wednesday (3)
- (20) Chris —, Spurs defender (2)
- (21) The 6th 7th, 1st, 10th and 11th Divisions (4)
- (22) D — — — — — Crystal Palace wing (6)
- (23) They play at Boothferry Park (4)
- (24) One who takes part in the game (6)
- (25) Alf Be —, Palace striker (3)
- (26) Gary —, Aston Villa striker (4)
- (27) — Park, ground of Crystal Palace (3)
- (28) Identification on the team shirts (7)
- (29) D — st r Rovers, Third Division club (4)
- (30) Kevin —, Everton midfielder player (6)
- (31) — Madrid, Cup-Winner Cup Finalists (4)
- (32) — — — — — Park, ground of Middlesbrough (4)
- (33) Justin F — — — — Notts County striker (3)
- (34) Mark Hig —, Everton defender (3)
- (35) Paul — — —, Ipswich striker (3)
- (36) John — Arsenal defender (2)
- (37) Emyrn —, Hull defender (6)
- (38) The aim of all strikers (4)
- (39) Remove the letters of "TENTS" from Frank Stapleton's surname and make the remaining four letters into a game (4)
- (40) Ien —, Nottingham Forest midfielder (6)
- (41) Chris — — — (Sunderland) and Ally — — — — — (WBA) (6)
- (42) "Humiliation" from the initial letters of Orient, Gillingham, Wolves and Leicester (4)
- (43) Geoff — — — —, Wolves defender (3)

DOWN

- (1) The large numbers of people collectively who watch the games. (5)
(2) Kevin —, Manchester City striker (6)
(3) — Meadow, ground of Shrewsbury. (3)

**ANSWERS ON
PAGE 36**

WHISTLE STOP

**LETTN
MACHETT**

One of your linemen informs you that a manager is coaching his side from the touch-line. Do you (a) caution the manager, (b) tell him to refrain, or (c) tell the linemen it is his problem?



2

You blow for a penalty after a defender handles but the ball rolls into the goal. Do you (a) award a goal, or (b) instruct the player that the penalty-kick must be taken because you had already blown for the offence?



3

You notice a player, who's team is 6-0 down, leave the pitch without your permission. The player then informs you he will not finish the game. Do you (a) take no action, or (b) caution the player?



MATCH POINT

After being involved in the Arsenal v Manchester United F.A. Cup Semi-Final, which the Old Trafford side won 2-1, I found myself in charge of a Second Division relegation battle the following Saturday between Bolton and Cambridge. Motivation was the hardest thing to adapt to. From a crowd of over 48,000 I was then in charge of a game with a little over 4,000! But it doesn't take me long to adjust and I had just as much job satisfaction from Burnden Park as I did seven days earlier at Villa Park.

ANSWERS

...they have requested the
...match instructions with my
...cover this point. I make

THE day I was told I couldn't get a visa for New Zealand was the luckiest day of my life.

I would certainly have been playing in Christchurch today rather than for Rangers. I still shudder at the thought

But I now expect the unexpected in football.

I went South when I was 15 and spent 14 months at Sunderland. It looked as though I would sign for the Roker Park club but they decided to release me and that was when I thought my career was heading towards Christchurch

While I was waiting for a visa I started playing for a works team, then a juvenile line-up and was then picked up by Shettleston Juniors.

The visa didn't come through after getting caught in legal red tape and I was soon on my way to Rangers.

Within months of signing for former manager Jock Wallace I made my breakthrough.

Bobby Russell reveals—

'Red tape ties me to Rangers'

And by the end of that season, I had picked up a Scottish Cup winners medal as well as a League Championship badge.

Actually, the first medal I won in senior soccer was given to me by Sandy Jardine!

Sounds a bit strange, but let me hastily explain. I'd played in the first team since the start of the 1977-78 season, but by the time the League Cup Final came round I had caught a 'flu bug and had to miss the game.

We were due to play Celtic and I was really looking forward to the event. Being born in the Parkhead area of Glasgow, playing in a Final against our greatest rivals



was something I was eagerly anticipating.

Then the 'flu bug struck and Mr Wallace had no option but to leave me out. We won 2-1 and afterwards Sandy Jardine presented me with his winners medal in the Hampden dressing-room.

I was choked by such a gesture and really appreciated it. Sandy simply said I deserved the medal and that was that.

In fact, I almost received two

winners medals from the game in which I took no part!

Johnny Hamilton, who had taken my place, actually offered me his as well. Again I was overwhelmed by that gesture but I declined Johnny's kind offer.

Things in that first season were really hectic. One minute I was playing in front of a handful of fans in junior football and the next I was performing regularly in front of thousands

TARTAN TALK

Every week featuring one of Scotland's top stars

To cap it all, Rangers did the treble in that memorable season and, putting the icing on the cake, I picked up the Man of the Match award after our 2-1 Scottish Cup Final victory against Aberdeen.

A repeat would do nicely on May 21!

If Rangers do win the trophy I hope it shuts up our critics for a while. Okay, we didn't do ourselves justice in the League this season, but I believe some of the criticism has been over the top.

Manager John Greig has been on the receiving end and I wish the critics would get off his back.

If Rangers are not winning consistently it is our fault... not the manager's.

Things have been coming together gradually as the team rediscovers confidence and I must say it's marvellous to see Ally Dawson playing so well at right-back.

I believe he is even better in the number two shirt than at left-back, where he picked up all his international caps.

Attention

If Ally can maintain his recent form he must surely again attract the attention of Jock Stein.

And I would also like to take this opportunity of praising Davie Cooper, who is a dream to play alongside and can sometimes take two or three defenders out of the game with his unselfish running.

People often ask if Davie and I work out things between us in training because everything seems to click into place when we're playing.

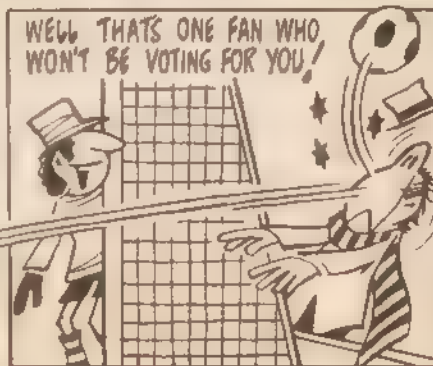
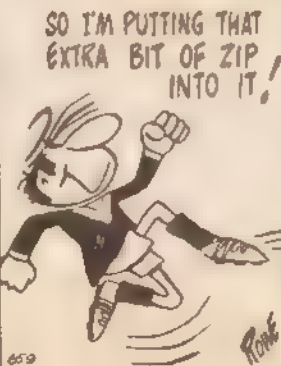
We don't do anything special in preparation, it just comes naturally.

There are so many good players at Rangers that I am certain we will have a lot of critics eating their words next season. We'll be going all out for the Premier Division title... that's a promise.

And we are looking forward to getting revenge on Aberdeen, who beat us 4-1 in extra-time in last season's Scottish Cup Final.

We beat The Dons in the League recently and I am certain we can repeat that later this month at Hampden Park. That's a promise, too!

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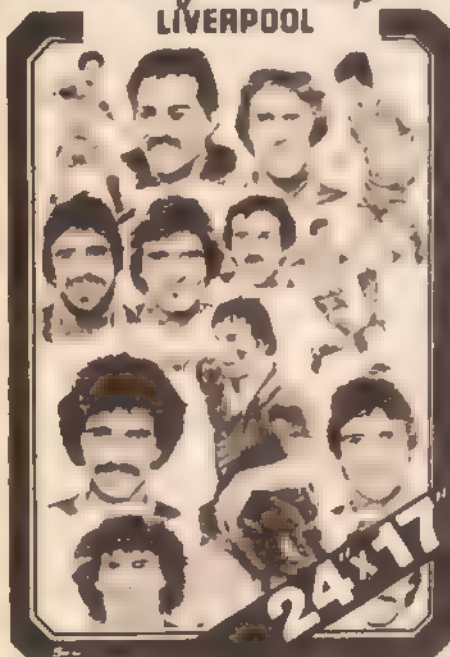
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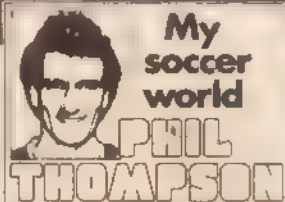
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7 UP - MORE TO COME



IT'S ironic that a season I regard as my most disappointing since I began playing in the First Division with Liverpool ten years ago should present me with a record that must make me the envy of every player in English football.

Despite the handicap of an ankle injury that has virtually ruled me out of first team selection since last December, I have clocked up a sufficient number of games to qualify for my seventh League Championship medal.

I'm the only player ever to possess so many medals, and what makes me extra proud is the fact I've won them all with the same club!

In 1973, 1976, 1977, 1979, 1980, 1982 — and 1983!

One of my big ambitions is to add more to that collection in a bid to hold on to my special place in the history books.

A question of seven up, and more to come.

I'm convinced I can only be overtaken by another Liverpool player, and among the present squad there are three

challengers: Phil Neal, Sammy Lee and Ronnie Whelan.

Although they're great mates of mine, I wouldn't want to see any of them taking my record. A lot could depend on my regaining my place in the side and playing on with Liverpool for several more years.

I've made no secret of the fact I'd prefer to end my days as a player with the club where my heart will always be.

My fingers are firmly crossed I'm rid of the particular injury jinx that struck me last season and again in this one.

Unlike most other players, I don't get the type of injury that just puts me out of action for a week or two. My lay-offs last much longer.

Damaged

Everything was going great for me from the start of the season until I damaged knee ligaments against Watford in a League game in December. I'd played in every game — League, European Cup and Milk Cup.

I made a comeback against Manchester United at Old Trafford in February. After such a long period, I'd naturally lost my match fitness, and though the side played well enough to gain a draw, I often found myself struggling.

A few games later, I injured my ankle against Brighton at the Goldstone Ground in a 2-2 draw, and it was weeks be-

fore I was able to make a comeback with the reserves.

Being a proud man, it rankles with me that I've won my record-making medal having only played around half of the 42 League games.

I'd hoped everything would be dead right for my testimonial season.

I wanted to play at my peak in every game to justify the backing I knew I'd receive from all my fans and friends.

The climax of my year comes next Tuesday when Anfield stages my testimonial game.

I've got together a side of past and present Liverpool players, and England manager Bobby Robson has formed one from his internationals.

Bobby will lead his England 11 out, and our retiring manager, Bob Paisley, has agreed to front my team for his final appearance at Anfield.

On the previous Saturday, Bob will officially bring down the curtain on his managerial reign at Anfield in our last game, against Aston Villa.

Although the Championship is settled, the game will be far from meaningless as Villa will want the three points to clinch a place in next season's UEFA Cup.

There's nothing I want more in the world than to play in that game.

Phil Thompson

BIG MATCHES OF THE DAY

Saturday, 7th May

Ipswich v Watford

WATFORD will have to play more of a 90-minute game than they did against Ipswich last December to get any change out of their first League visit to Portman Road for more than 26 years. Headers by Ross Jenkins and Les Taylor gave them a two-goal lead against the East Anglian side in that more recent game at Vicarage Road, but Watford faded badly in the second-half and were lucky to hold on to maximum points after a late goal from Paul Mariner.

Liverpool v Villa

VILLA held Liverpool to a goalless draw at Anfield last season and won there 2-1 in November, 1977, when Andy Gray got both of their goals. However, those are Villa's only successes in their last 16 League visits. The goals tally for these games completes the picture — Liverpool 42 — Villa 11.

Man. Utd. v Swansea

GARRY BIRTLES scored United's only goal in their three clashes with Swansea since the Welsh side gained First Division status. That was at Old Trafford last season when United won 1-0. The Swans held United to a goalless draw at The Vetch Field last December but United should improve their recent goalscoring record against Swansea, who have never scored more than a single goal in any of their seven League visits to Old Trafford.

Stoke v Coventry

IN this game last season Stoke beat Coventry 4-0 with Lee Chapman and Adrian Heath getting two goals each. That was Stoke's biggest victory over The Sky Blues since the first Coventry visit to the Victoria Ground for a League game way back in December, 1919, and were beaten 6-1. Earlier this season Stoke lost 2-0 at Highfield Road with Mark Hateley getting both goals.

WBA v Southampton

ALBION were well beaten 4-1 at The Dell last December, and Southampton managed a 1-1 draw on this ground last season with Ally Brown and Mike Chanon the scorers. That was Southampton's first point at The Hawthorns in their last four visits.

Hibs v Rangers

HIBS have only beaten Rangers once in their last 11 Premier Division games. That was at Easter Road in December, 1979, when they came from behind to win 2-1 with goals by Colin Campbell and Tony Higgins. Five of their seven League meetings since then have resulted in draws, including two goalless games in Rangers' last two visits to Easter Road.

LINE-UPS...RESULTS...SC

Saturday, April 9

Second Division

CRYSTAL PALACE (H) 2 (Rushbury (og))
CARUSLE (1) 1 (Shoulder) 5,896
C. Palace: Fry, Hinchelwood, Locke, Hughton, Cannon, Gilbert, Giles, Masbutt, Brown, Murphy, Hlaire, Carlisle, Swinburne, Haight, McCartney, Caughlin, Rushbury, Houghton, K. Robson, B. Robson, Poskitt, Benson (Craig), Shoulder

FULHAM (H) 2 (Davies, Brown)
CHARLTON (H) 1 (White) 8,035
Fulham: Peyton, Hopkins, Lock, O'Driscoll, Brown, Dale, Davies, Wilson, Conay, Houghton, Lewington, Charlton, Johns, Gitt, Dickenson, McAlister, McDonald, Barry, Smith, Harris, Hales, White, Robinson

MIDDLESBROUGH (H) 2 (Kennedy 2 (1 pen))
DERBY (2) 3 (Gemmell pen, Davison 2) 9,078
Middlesbrough: O'Hanlon, Nattrass, Bolton (Beattie), Baxter, Mowbray, Otto, Sugrue, Kennedy, Wood, Shearer, Bell
Derby: Cherry, Barton, Buckley, Gemmell, Powell, Fletcher, Brody, Davison, Wilson, Hooks (McAfee), Burns

OXFORD (1) 2 (Hebbard 2)
ORIENT (1) 2 (Houchen, Kitchen) 4,033
PORTSMOUTH (H) 0
BRADFORD (1) 1 (McCall) 12,198
SHEFFIELD UTD (1) 2 (Richardson, Trueson)
WIGAN (H) 0 8,978
WALSALL (2) 5 (Sinnott, Mower, Summerfield, Budday, Shakespeare)
BRISTOL ROVERS (H) 0 4,559

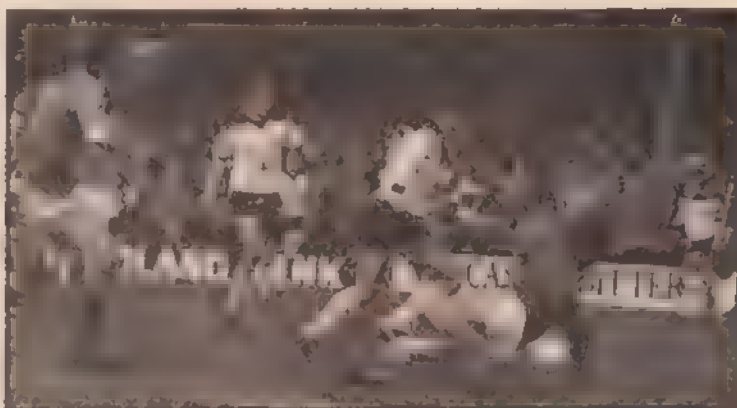
Fourth Division

ALDERSHOT (H) 1 (Brodie)
BRISTOL CITY 0 1,420
BURNLEY (H) 3 4,772

WALSLEY (H) 1 (Barnes)
HULL (3) 3 (Marwood 2, Bardeley (og))
BLACKPOOL (1) 1 (Deary) 8,555

PETERBOROUGH (H) 4 (Slack, Chard, pen, Clarke, Glynn)
SWINDON (1) 3 (Rideout, Barnard, Rowland) 2,522

TORQUAY (H) 2 (Carter, Cooper)
CREWE (H) 1 (Welsh) 1,684



Gordon Davies rounds Charlton 'keeper Nicky Johns for Fulham's first goal at Craven Cottage.

NEWCASTLE (2) 3 (Metcalfe (og), Varadi, Waddie)
BLACKBURN (H) 2 (Keeley 2) 17,788
Newcastle: Carr, Anderson, Wharton, McCreary, Clark, Carney, Keegan, McDonald, Varadi, Fernal, McDermott, Waddie
Blackburn: Senno, Branagan, Rathbone, Randall, Mail, Fazackerley, Bell, Hamilton (Keeley), Lowey, Garner, Metcalfe

OLDHAM (1) 2 (Wyde, Ryan)
CHELSEA (1) 2 (Filiery 2 (1 pen)) 4,973
Oldham: Gorm, Sinclair (Hudson), Ryan, Bowden, Clements, Anderson, Wyde, Adanson, McDonough, Henry, Palmer
Chelsea: Ples, Jones, Hutchings, Lee, Williams, Pates, Filiery, Mayes, Speedie, Canoville, Rhoades-Brown

QPR (1) 2 (Gregory, Sealy)
LEICESTER (H) 2 (Linaker 2) 16,301
QPR: Mucker, Neill, Davies, Waddock, Hazell, Fenwick, Micklewhite, Sealy, Stanrod, Pienagan, Gregory
Leicester: Wallington, Ramsey, B. Smith, MacDonald, English, O'Neill, Lynex, Linaker, A. Smith, Daly, Wilson

ROTHERHAM (H) 1 (Seesman)
WOLVES (1) 1 (Hibbin) 7,288
Rotherham: Mimms, McEwan, Friar, Green, Stancliffe, Johnson, Arnett, Alexander (Moore), Seesman, Mitchell, McBride
Wolves: Burridge, Humphrey, Palmer, Smith, Pender, Dodd, Hibbin, Kellock (Richard), Gray, Eves

Third Division

BOURNEMOUTH (1) 2 (Morgan, Beck)
CHESTERFIELD (1) 1 (Plummer) 5,227

CARDIFF (2) 3 (Tong 2, Gibbins)
DONCASTER (H) 0 5,458

GILLINGHAM (2) 2 (Weatherley, Bruce pen)
NEWPORT (H) 0 4,286

HUDDERSFIELD (H) 2 (Harvey, Brown pen)
PLYMOUTH (H) 0 9,277

MILLWALL (1) 2 (Stewart, Neal)
LINCOLN (1) 1 (Hobson) 3,780

Scottish First

AYR (1) 2 (Frye, McNally)
DUNFERMLINE (1) 3 (Stewart 2, Forrest) 700
CLYDE (2) 3 (Doherty, Masterton 2)
ALLOA (1) 3 (Munro, Garner pen, Campbell)

CLYDEBANK (2) 2 (Hughes, Treanor pen) 1,300

HAMILTON 6
PARTICK 0 1,483

QUEEN'S PARK (1) 4 (Quinn 2, Gilmour, Nicholson)
AIRDRIE (2) 3 (McLauchlan pen, McCafferty, Rodger) 848

RAITH 0
DUMFARTON 0 800

ST JOHNSTONE (1) 2 (Morton, Blair)
HEARTS (H) 1 (Bowman) 7,501

Scottish Second

ARBROATH (1) 4 (McKenzie, Hill 2, Harley)
STIRLING (2) 3 (Colquhoun pen, Torrance 2) 676

BRECHIN (2) 3 (Paterson, Campbell 2)
COWDENBEATH (2) 2 (Robertson, Tierney)
DUNDEE (2) 3 (Alexander 3) 200

MEADOWBANK (1) 3 (Smith, Lawson)
MONTROSE (H) 0 300

STENHOUSEMUR (H) 0
EAST FIFE (H) 2 (Hamilton, Rae) 250

STRANRAER (1) 1 (Quinn)
FORFAR (1) 2 (Liddell, McDonald pen) 200

Sunday, April 10

Fourth Division

NORTHAMPTON (H) 3 (Buchanan 2, Jeffery)
HALIFAX (H) 1 (Stanforth) 2,208

Tuesday, April 12

First Division

COVENTRY 0
LIVERPOOL 0 14,821
Coventry: Sestey, Thomas, Roberts, Jacobs, Dyson, Gillespie, Hendrie, Francis, Hateley, Whitton, Hunt
Liverpool: Grobbelaar, Neal, Kennedy, Lawrenson, Whelan, Hansen, Dalglish, Lee, Rush, Johnston, Seanes

LUTON (3) 3 (Hill 2, Horton pen)
SHEFFINGHAM (H) 1 (Hopkins) 12,868
Luton: Godden, Stephens, Money, Horton, Elliott, Donaghy, Hill, Aylott, Walsh, Anco, Moss (Stein)
Sheffingham: Colon, Van den Hauwe, Hagen, Stevenson, Blake, Broadhurst (Phillips), Bayle, Ferguson, Harford, Haisell, Hopkins

Second Division

OLDHAM (2) 3 (Wyde, McDonough 2)
BURNLEY (H) 0 8,128
Oldham: Gorm, McAlister, Ryan, Bowden, Clements, Anderson, Wyde, Adanson, McDonough, Henry, Palmer
Burnley: Stevenson, Laws, Donachie, Phelan, Dobson, Flynn, Scott (Taylor), Staves, Hamilton, Donovan, Overson

Third Division

MANCHESTER (H) 0
ORIENT (1) 3 (Kitchen 2, Cornwell) 2,355

MILLWALL (H) 1 (Hobson pen)
WYTHOLM (H) 1 (Curle) 4,873

PRESTON (H) 1 (Houston (og))
SHEFFIELD UTD (H) 1 8,286

CONTINUED OVER

LINE-UPS...RESULTS...SC

FOURTH DIVISION

COLCHESTER (1) 1 (Adcock)
PORT VALE (1) 2 (Newton, Fox) 3,275

DARLINGTON (0) 0
BLACKPOOL (1) 1 (Stewart) 1,333

Wednesday, April 13

Second Division

DERBY (1) 1 (Gammill)
CHARLTON (1) 1 (McAlister) 15,605
Derby: Cherry, Barton, Buckley (McAhe), Gemmell, Powell, Fitcher, Broily, Davison, Wilson, Burns, Emson
Charlton: Johns, Gritt, Dickenson, McAllister, MacDonald, Berry, Bullivant, Harris, Aizewood, White, Robinson

Scottish Second

ALBION (0) 2 (Burgess, Kasule)
COWDENBEATH (0) 0 450

MEADOWS BANK (1) 1 (Hendrie)
STRANRAER (0) 0 680

Friday, April 15

Fourth Division

COLCHESTER (2) 5 (Adcock 2, Allinson 2 (1 pen), Keeley (og))
SCUNTHORPE (1) 1 (Cammack) 3,155

CREWE (0) 3 (Waller 2, Chapman)
HARTLEPOOL (0) 0 2,042

HALIFAX (1) 2 (Alett 2)
YORK (0) 2 (Pollard pen, Sbragia) 2,117



Saturday, April 16

F.A. Cup

(Semi-Finals)

BRIGHTON (1) 2 (Case, Robinson)
SHEFFIELD WED (0) 1 (Mirocevic) at Highbury 54,627

Brighton: Moseley, Stevens, Pearce, Greshall, Foster, Gelling, Case, Howden, Robinson, Smith, Smiles
Sheff Wed: Bolder, Sterland, Heard, Smith, Lyons, Shelton, Magson, Mills, Bannister, McCulloch, Mirocevic

ARSENAL (1) 1 (Woodcock)
MANCHESTER UTD (0) 2 (Robson, Whiteside)
At Villa Park 48,535
Arsenal: Wood, Robson (Chapman), Sansom, Whyte, O'Leary, Hollins, Talbot, Davis, Petrovic, Woodcock
Man Utd: Bailey, Duxbury, Albiston, Moses, Moran (McGrath), McQueen, Robson, Grimes, Stapleton, Whiteside, Wilks

First Division

COVENTRY (0) 0
BIRMINGHAM (0) 1 (Phillips) 10,420
Coventry: Sealey, Thomas, Roberts, Jacobs, Dyson, Gillespie, Hendrie, Francis, Heteley, Whittan, Hunt
Birmingham: Cotton, Van den Hauwe, Dennis, Hagan, Blake, Phillips, Gayle, Ferguson (Handysides), Harford, Halls, Hopkins

MANCHESTER CITY (2) 2 (McDonald, Tuart pen)
WEST HAM (0) 0 23,105

Man City: Williams, Ranson, McDonald, Reid, Bond, Caton, Tuart, Reeves, Kinsay, Harford, Power
West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Orr, Devonshire, Van der Es, Goddard (Conee), Allen, Dickens, Pike

NORWICH (0) 2 (Deehan 2)
SUNDERLAND (0) 0 15,833
Norwich: Woods, Haycock, Watson, Walford, Downs, Mandham, Barham, Channon, Deehan, Bertschin, Ben, Jones
Sunderland: Turner (Buckley), Whitefield, Munro, Atkins, Chisholm, Pickering, Venison, Rowell, West, James, McCourt

NOTTS COUNTY (0) 1 (Chadozie)
LUTON (0) 1 (Donaghy) 8,932
Notts Co: Avramovic, Benjamin, Hunt, Goodwin, Kildine, Richards, Chadozie, Christie, McCulloch, Laitinen (Harkouk), Worthington
Luton: Godden, Stephens, Money, Horton, Elliott, Donaghy, Hill, Aylott, Walsh, Amb, Moss

SOUTHAMPTON (3) 3 (Moran pen, Holmes 2)
LIVERPOOL (2) 2 (Daigh, Johnston) 23,578
Southampton: Shilton, Agbo, Mills, Williams, Nicholl, Wright, Holmes, Foyle, Moran, Armstrong, Wainwright
Liverpool: Grobbelaar, Neal, Kennedy, Lawrenson, Whelan, Daigh, Hansen, Lee, Fairclough (Hodgson), Johnston, Souness

SWANSEA (1) 1 (Charles)
STOKE (0) 1 (Thomas) 10,100
Swansea: Sander, Marustik, Richards, Charles, Lewis, Raykovic, Lovendge, James, Walsh, Stevenson, Robinson, Latchford
Stoke: Fox, Bould, Hampton, Bracewell, Watson, Berry, Painter, McIlroy, O'Callaghan, Thomas, W, Chambers

TOTTENHAM (2) 3 (Brazil 2, Mabbutt)
IPSWICH (0) 1 (Marner) 30,587
Tottenham: Clemence, Hughton, O'Reilly (Hodde), Roberts, Miller, Parrymen, Mabbutt, Archibald, Gibson, Brazil, Falco
Ipswich: Cooper, Burley, Barnes (Turner), Putney, Steggles, Butcher, Wark, McCall, Marner, D'Avray



Sheffield Wednesday's Gary Bannister shoots wide of the mark in the F.A. Cup Semi-Final clash with Brighton

WATFORD (1) 1 (Bissett)
NOTTM FOREST (0) 3 (Bowyer, Hodge, Davenport) 17,637
Watford: Sherwood, Rice, Roston, Taylor, Terry, Jack, et al, Callaghan, Bissett, Barnes, Johnson, Lohman (Armstrong)
Nottm Forest: Van Braklen, Anderson, Swain, Gunn, Young, Bowyer, Walsh, Wallace, Davenport, Hodge, Robertson

Second Division

BLACKBURN (2) 3 (Garner 2, Lowey)
CRYSTAL PALACE (0) 0 4,635
Blackburn: Gennos, Man, Rathbone, Rendell, Keeley, Fazecklerley, Brotherton, Branagan, Bell, Garner, Lowey
C Palace: Fry, Locke, Henshekwood, Nebbelling (Wilkins), Cannon, Gilbert, Brown, Hughton, Mabbutt, Gies, Williams

CAMBRIDGE 0
SHREWSBURY 0 3,615
Cambridge: Webster, Fisher, Murray, Turner, Fallon, Finney, Christie, Sinton, Godsmith, Reilly, Pyle
Shrewsbury: Ogrzewiec, Williams, Johnson, Griffin (Turner), Pearson, Stevens, McNally, Maccaeran, Brown, Robinson, Bates

CARLISLE (0) 1 (Shouder)
BURNLEY (0) 1 (Phelan) 5,081

CARLISLE: Swinburne, Haigh, McCartney, Caughlin, Rushbury, Houghton, X. Robson, B. Robson, Pickett (Craig), Sannon, Shoulder
Burnley: Stevenson, Laws, Donachie, Phelan, Dobson, Flynn, Cassidy, Steven, Hamilton, Donovan, Wharton

CHELSEA (0) 0
NEWCASTLE (1) 2 (Keegan pen, Varadi) 13,446
Chelsea: Lee, J. Jones, Hutchings, Lee, Droy, Pales, Filley, Bumstead, Mayes, Rhodes-Brown, Canoville, K. Jones
Newcastle: Carr, Anderson, Wharton, McCreary, Clarke, Carney, Keegan, McDonald, Varadi, McDermod, Wadda

DERBY (1) 1 (Burns)
BARNLEY (0) 1 (Cunningham) 14,861
Derby: Cherry, Barton, Burns, Gemmell, Powell, Fitcher, Boly, Davison, Wilson, Hooks, Emson
Barnley: Pearce, Joyce, Longden, Glavin (Birch), Banks, McCarthy, Law, Parker, Ranson, Cunningham, Barrowclough

GRIMSBY (0) 0
MIDDLESBROUGH (1) 3 (Sugrue, Hamilton, Otto) 5,985
Grimsby: Batch, D. Moore, Crombie, Waters, Saxby (Wilkinson), K. Moore, Ford, Bonnyman, Drinkell, O'Dell, Cumming
Middlesbrough: O'Hanlon, Nattrass, Hamilton, Baxter, Mowbray, Otto, Sugrue, Kennedy, Wood, Shearer, Bell

LEEDS (1) 1 (Wright)
FULHAM (0) 1 (Houghton) 24,328
Leeds: Harvey, Thomas, F. Gray, Shenden, Hart, Dickson, Hird, E. Gray, Wright (Aspin), O'Donnell, Graham
Fulham: Payton, Hopkins, Parker, Lock, O'Donoghue, Brown, Gale, Davies, Wilson, Conroy, Houghton, Lawington

LEICESTER (1) 3 (W. Ison, Lineker 2)
ROTHERHAM (0) 1 (McBride) 12,978
Leicester: Wallington, Ramsey, B. Smith, MacDonald, English, O'Neill, Lyness, Lineker, A. Smith, Daly, Wilson
Rotherham: Mims, McKean, Fear, Green, Standcliffe, Johnson, Amott (Henson), Alexander, Seaman, Mitchell, McBride

WOLVES 0
BOLTON 0 12,723
Wolves: Burridge, Humphrey, Palmer, Smith, Pender, Dodd, Hibbert, Clarke (Butler), Gray, Richards, Matthews
Bolton: McDonagh, Whitworth, Daxton, Gray, McElhinney, Doyle, Barrows, Rudge, Moores, Joyce, Hoggan

Third Division

BRADFORD 0
MILLWALL 0 3,953

BRENTFORD (1) 2 (Bowles pen, Cassell)
WALSALL (2) 3 (Rees 2, Sinnott) 4,868

BRISTOL ROVERS (0) 3 (Barrett, Randall, Stephens)
PRESTON (1) 2 (Elliott, Hinnigan) 5,189

CHESTERFIELD (0) 1 (Owen)
EXETER (2) 3 (Sparrow, Pratt, Neville) 1,788

DONCASTER (0) 0
OXFORD (0) 1 (Hebbard) 1,592

LINCOLN (0) 2 (Turner, Moss)
WREXHAM (0) 0 3,700

NEWPORT (0) 0
PORTSMOUTH (0) 3 (Rafferty 2, Biley) 10,419

ORIENT (0) 1 (McNe)
HUDDERSFIELD (1) 3 (Wilson, Stanton, Lillis) 3,700

PLYMOUTH (0) 3 (Phillips, Nesbet, Stanforth)
SHEFFIELD UTD (1) 1 (Morris) 3,665

GILLINGHAM 0 2,566

BOURNEMOUTH 0 4,275

CARDIFF 0 4,447

Fourth Division

BLACKPOOL (1) 1 (McNevin)
BRISTOL CITY (1) 4 (Hetzke (og), Ritchie pen, Riley, Crawford) 2,209

BURY (1) 1 (Gore pen)
PETERBOROUGH (0) 0 2,761

CHESTER (1) 2 (Allen, Mann)
NORTHAMPTON (0) 1 (Tucker) 1,221

It happened this week

15 YEARS AGO

Cardiff's spirited challenge for the Cup-Winners' Cup is over. After holding Hamburger SV 1-1 away, a last-minute goal by the West Germans at Ninian Park produces a 3-2 win to send them on to play AC Milan in the Final.

A Paul Madeley goal gives Leeds a promising 1-1 result in Dundee in the first-leg of the all-British Semi-Final of the Fairs Cup.

OPR's Rodney Marsh is the star of England's 4-0 thrashing of Hungary in an Under-23 game at Everton.

10 YEARS AGO

For the second year running, a goalkeeper is voted "Footballer of the Year" — Pat Jennings taking over the title from Gordon Banks.

For the first time in 42 years, a Second Division side wins the F.A. Cup. A 32nd minute goal from Ian Porterfield does the trick for unfancied Sunderland.

But a superb performance by goalkeeper Jim Montgomery proves the major stumbling-block to hot favourites Leeds.

One magnificent double-save turns the course of the Final. Diving to his left for Trevor Cherry's well-placed header, "Monty" can only push the ball out to Peter Lorimer but from five yards out, the man with the hardest shot in the game can only watch in disbelief as his "goal" is turned away to safety.

Up in Scotland, the "Old Firm" Final sees Rangers edge out Celtic 3-2.

Within a week of hanging up his boots at Old Trafford, Bobby Charlton is back in the game as Preston manager. Another move to the hot-seat sees Johnny Hart taking over the reins at Manchester City.

Moves to sanction League soccer on Sundays are again being mooted, but there seems little chance of them being taken up.

5 YEARS AGO

The pundits favour Arsenal, but it's underdogs Ipswich who take home the F.A. Cup for the first time in their history. In an excellent Final, after The Gunners' woodwork had been shaken three times, Roger Osborne wraps it up with the only goal of the game in the 77th minute.

And over the border, Rangers complete their 'treble' with a brilliant 2-1 victory over Aberdeen. Kenny Burns, having made such a great contribution to Forest's Championship winning season, is elected "Footballer of the Year".

England's youngsters, so promising of late, allow Yugoslavia to snatch an unmerited 1-1 draw at Maine Road and so, on a 3-2 aggregate, are edged out of the European Under-21 Final.

There's a blow for Liverpool when injury rules strong-man Tommy Smith out of next week's European Cup Final, but the rest of the squad look like being available to take on FC Bruges at Wembley.

After 20 years in the First Division, West Ham fall in their struggle to escape the drop.

England may be out of the World Cup, but there's some consolation for the clubs when Scotland manager Ally MacLeod names no less than 15 "Anglos" in his 22-man squad for Argentina. Big surprise, though, is the omission of Villa's Andy Gray.

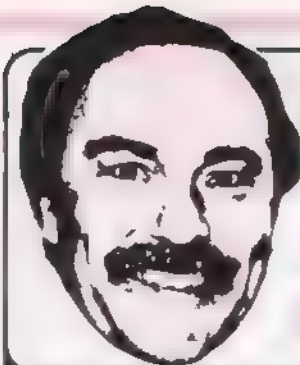
City in Europe

I'm glad to see Stoke confounding all those people who tipped them for relegation at the start of the season. A place in Europe will be fitting reward for Richie Barker's tremendous work.

**SIMON KNOBBS,
FORSBROOK, STAFFS**



City's challenge for a place in Europe must be the most underrated performance of the season. After selling Lee Chapman, Barker was left with a team with nowhere to go but down, but he's drafted in Mickey Thomas and Mark Chamberlain and they haven't looked back. I'd love to see Stoke claiming a UEFA Cup spot. Maybe then they'll get the recognition they deserve.



Straight shooting from JIMMY GREAVES

Write exclusively to Jimmy Greaves, SHOOT, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. £10 for Star Letter, £4 others published. Overseas readers receive SHOOT T-shirts (please state size, small, medium or large). When writing please mention how features you liked best in the latest issue.

Top Dons

I used to think you Sassenachs were ignorant about Scottish soccer until I met a Frenchman who kept referring to Aberdeen as "One of the best English Second Division teams!" But seriously, how do you rate The Dons' chances in the Cup-Winners' Cup Final against Real Madrid?

**DAVID HOWIE,
ABERDEEN**



Real Madrid are still one of the greatest names in world football, but that's entirely due to the exploits of Puskas and Di Stefano 25 years ago. The current side are certainly nothing special and in my opinion Aberdeen must start as favourites. They've got a tremendous side, and playing the Final in Gothenburg will be to their advantage. I only hope that UEFA appoint a no-nonsense ref who makes it clear right from the start that he's going to tolerate none of the usual Spanish antics. If that happens, I take Aberdeen to win.

Same again!

Certain players always seem to score against the same teams. Tottenham's Mark Falco, for instance, always manages to hit the target against my team Aston Villa. Did you ever have a team you always seemed to score against?

**BEN BRICKLEY,
FINCHFIELD, WOLVERHAMPTON**



Actually there were quite a few! Believe it or not, the three teams I seemed to find most joy against were Nottingham Forest, Liverpool and Manchester United. Newcastle were another. There is no logical explanation for this, because over the years a team's line-up completely changes yet you still go on scoring against them. It worked the other way, too, of course. For some reason, I never had much success against Bolton or Chelsea, although in the latter case that was often due to the presence of a certain 'Chopper' Harris!

Scotland's best

How much longer must Arthur Albiston wait for a proper chance in Scotland's team? I can't be alone in thinking he's currently one of the finest defenders in British football.

**PAUL McGUIGAN,
STAFFORD**



This is really the first season for a long time that Manchester United have played top-class football and quite a few of their unsung heroes are now heading for international honours. Gary Bailey and Mike Duxbury are others who have come through from nowhere. Certainly I'd like to see Arthur Albiston (below) getting another Scotland call-up.



This week's Star Letter and £10 winner comes from Ann Waters of The Woodlands, Bishop's Stortford, Herts. She writes

DICKENS' DILEMMA

HAVE West Ham found another Trevor Brooking in young Alan Dickens? This young lad has made such a terrific start to his career at Upton Park that even Trevor's inevitable retirement may not seem so bad after all. Trevor has been a fantastic servant to the club, but I'm confident that Alan can do just as well.



As Trevor has already said, the worst thing you could possibly do would be to label Dickens as 'the new Trevor Brooking'. I simply cannot understand the mania we have in this country for burdening every promising teenager with a horrible comparison to some past master. When I first appeared on the scene everybody called me 'the new Dixie Dean' or 'the new Hughie Gallagher' and after I retired every young striker became 'the new Jimmy Greaves'. Young footballers have enough difficulties simply trying to establish themselves in the Football League without having to live up to some absurd tag. Any West Ham fan comparing Alan to Trevor will do him a terrible disservice. They should just accept that he is a very good player trying to fill a gap left in the West Ham midfield by Trevor. He may not fill the gap in the same manner, but I'm confident he'll do his job.

Celtic clash

After winning the European Cup in 1967, Celtic played a number of top English and European clubs in a series of challenge matches. Did you ever play against those 'Lisbon Lions', Britain's greatest ever team?

**THOMAS WHITE,
GLASGOW**



I played against Celtic's 1967 team, but I never faced Britain's greatest team because the record books prove that's the Liverpool side of recent years. Our game against Celtic at Parkhead in the summer of 1967 was a tremendous match, coming just after their European Cup triumph and Tottenham's F.A. Cup success. The match finished 3-3, and I scored with my first kick of the game!



Mediocre Ipswich

Ipswich are in grave danger of becoming a very mediocre team. You cannot replace stars such as Frans Thijssen, Arnold Muhren, Alan Brazil and Mick Mills with virtual unknowns like Irvin Gernon, Trevor Putney, Steve McCall, Kevin Steggles and Mich D'Avray.

**S. R. SWALES,
BRADFORD**



Despite their recent successes, Ipswich can still not really be considered to be a major club. It's inevitable that they are always going to lose out to the Manchester Uniteds and Tottenhams of this world when it comes to competing for the services of the top Portman Road stars. I feel particularly sorry for the Ipswich directors, because they are one of the very few boards who really deserve recognition and success. Ipswich (above, dark shirts), are becoming a middle of the road side, and I can only hope that their young stars will come good for them.

League for Refs

The standard of refereeing is on the decline because there is no consistency. One week a ref can be in charge at Anfield, the next in the Alliance League. How about appointing a group of 12 or 13 refs for each division and leave them in charge all season?

**MATTHEW RUTTER,
PRESTWICH, MANCHESTER**



I think the problem here would be that familiarity would breed contempt both among players and officials. I agree that no Football League ref should have to take charge of games in other leagues, but there is no difference between a First Division game and a Fourth Division game except for the ability of the players. The problem at the moment is that refs interpret everything in black and white but don't allow for the game's many grey areas. There's no consideration for the human element, and I believe refs should meet more with the players to try to improve relations.

Summer switch

Despite all the recent talk of the changes needed to save the game, there seems to have been very little said on the topic of summer soccer. What are your views on this particular subject?

**MICHAEL McAREAVEY,
WESTHILL, ABERDEEN**



I'm not in favour of summer soccer. The fewer sports football competes against the better, so it's best to stick to winter. The public are set in their ways and summertime is traditionally reserved for other activities. I don't think fans mind the weather so much as the poor facilities offered them by most clubs. A lot of clubs are now trying to improve their grounds, but they seem to be aiming exclusively at the rich people who can afford executive boxes and season tickets. What about the average punter on the terraces?



GODDARD'S EURO TARGET

PAUL Goddard has just one aim between now and the end of the season — to score enough goals to fire West Ham into Europe.

The young striker who earlier this season was being talked of as England's next star has lost his way in recent months.

His goal in the 2-1 home defeat of Sunderland on April 9th was his first of the year, but few people have ever doubted that he will regain his sharpness in front of goal.

The loss of striking partner David Cross at the start of the season was seen by many as the reason for Goddard's poor return of goals.

Despite a good start, his pairing with Sandy Clark never really came off, and the Scottish centre-forward was recently transferred back to his native country, joining Rangers in a £150,000 deal.

Now Paul is trying to strike up a new understanding with David Swindlehurst, signed as Clark's replacement from Derby on transfer deadline day for £200,000.

He may not have enjoyed the best of seasons, but Paul Goddard is simply too good a player to just disappear from the scene without a trace.

SHOOT!

PEDRO RICHARDS
Notts County



SHOOT!

POOR GATES IN WEST GERMANY...

THERE was a capacity 61,418 crowd at Hamburg for the vital game against Bayern Munich, but overall, gates in West Germany have been disappointing this season.

The lowest that day was 8,500 at Monchengladbach and the other seven games totalled only 95,074.

According to HSV boss Ernst Happel, the Bundesliga has passed its peak and is now quite ordinary... because the players are not good enough.

Paul Breitner scored the Bayern goal in a 1-1 draw and was the best player on the field, but after 77 minutes a foul by Wolfgang Rolff put him out of the game and with a bad knee injury he may not play again this season.



● A goal for Cologne — but where are the fans?

VfB Stuttgart, third in the Bundesliga, are losing money every week.

In 1977-78 they averaged 54,000 for each home game, but this season their average is only just over 26,000.

Break-even is 30,000 per game based on their current commitments, and to help make up the deficit club chairman Gerhard Meyer has told the players that from now on they get only £250 per point bonus instead of £375.

...AUSTRIA...

AUSTRIAN League football is also in the doldrums. The 158th local derby in Vienna between League leaders SC Rapid and second-placed FK Austria attracted only 18,000 to the Prater Stadion.

Rapid's 1-0 win left them four points clear at the top, other clubs are in even worse financial trouble.

The lowest gate of that weekend was at Sudstadt, where Admira were watched by only 487 people and other crowds were 1,300 at VOEST Linz and less than 2,000 to see Union Raika Wels draw 1-1 with Grazer AK.

FRANCE AND BELGIUM

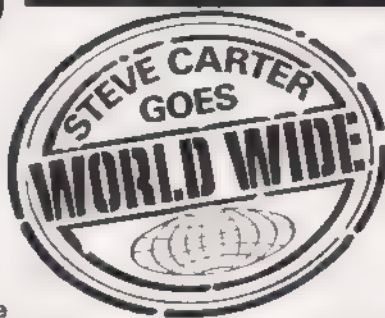
THE 25th round of League games in Belgium underlined the crisis at the gates, with high unemployment being partly blamed. Eight of the nine Division One matches pulled in an average of only 7,800, with the lowest only 3,000 to see CS Bruges draw 1-1 with Lierse.

But Anderlecht boosted the average, playing at the Heysel Stadium in the top of the table clash with FC Bruges and attracting 38,000.

Erwin Vandenberghe scored a hat-trick in Anderlecht's 5-2 win that kept Paul Van Himst's men on top.

ONLY a matter of weeks after announcing his retirement, Chilean legend Elias Figueroa (left) seems to have hit financial problems. The 36-year-old 'Frazz Beckenbauer of Chile' failed to repay a 50,000 dollar loan to an American bank, so the courts have decided to grab the cash via an embargo on Figueroa's shares in multinational companies.

IT took Peter Barnes six months to make an impact with Spanish club Real Betis. Finally hitting top form, he was voted best Number 11 in the Spanish First Division during the month of March.



200 UP FOR LACOMBE

FRENCH international striker Bernard Lacombe (right) received a standing ovation from the crowd at Lyon after he'd scored a fifth goal for the visitors, Bordeaux.

It was 30-year-old Lacombe's 200th League goal, and makes him one of only five players in the history of the French First Division to have topped the double ton.

France's leading scorer of all time is Argentine striker Delio Onnis (now with Tours) with a tally of 260.

GILMAR IS BACK

GILMAR, Brazil's 1958 62 World Cup-winning goal keeper has been appointed supervisor in the new football Technica Centre.

President Getulio Coutinho said. Because of his experience and leadership, he is the ideal man for the post. Gilmar, 52-years old, retired after winning his 100th cap against England in Rio in 1969 and also collected the coveted Brazil D'Art Prize for players who go ten years without a goal being scored against them.

Today Gilmar is a successful businessman, owning and managing a motor car spare parts company and a car sales company in São Paulo.

He will work closely with new Brazil manager Carlos Alberto Parreira, who was in charge of Kuwait's 1982 World Cup triumph.



JAN PETERS, the 23-year old centre forward who recently had a trial with Southampton, has joined Sabadell in the Spanish Second Division. No relation to his Dutch midfield namesake (above), he was also capped twice for the Netherlands.

BILARDO'S BONUS

WHILE Bobby Robson continues to fight for more time with his England players, it's interesting to note that Argentina's new national team manager, Carlos Bilardo, is faring a good deal better.

He gets his 18-man squad together for three days every week, and trains with them morning and afternoon.

For the South American Championship and World Cup qualifiers, Bilardo will have his players full time.

THE Tunisians set a new record on the 22nd day of their League programme when all but one of the First Division matches played ended as draws!

The only 'result' of the day was a 1-0 win for OK Kerkenna against fellow strugglers Stade Gabesien.

One result which wasn't a surprise was the 2-2 draw between Monastir and Sfax. Sfax thus notched up their 15th draw in 22 games. And that's a fact!



SCANDALOUS start to the Russian League season. Ahmet Aleskerov, boss of Nefchi Baku, was sacked days before the big kick-off and accused of 'corruption and incompetence'. He'd offered his players cars and apartments as incentives to win.

FANS HIT BY FORGED TICKETS

THE top of the table clash between Real Madrid and Athletic Bilbao tipped another £75,000 into Real's coffers — to add to the record £500,000 obtained from the Cup Winners' Cup Quarter Final against Inter Milan.

But it also tipped a lot of money into someone else's pockets as well.

An estimated 10,000 fans caused tremendous tumults in corridors and stairways when they discovered that their tickets were forgeries.

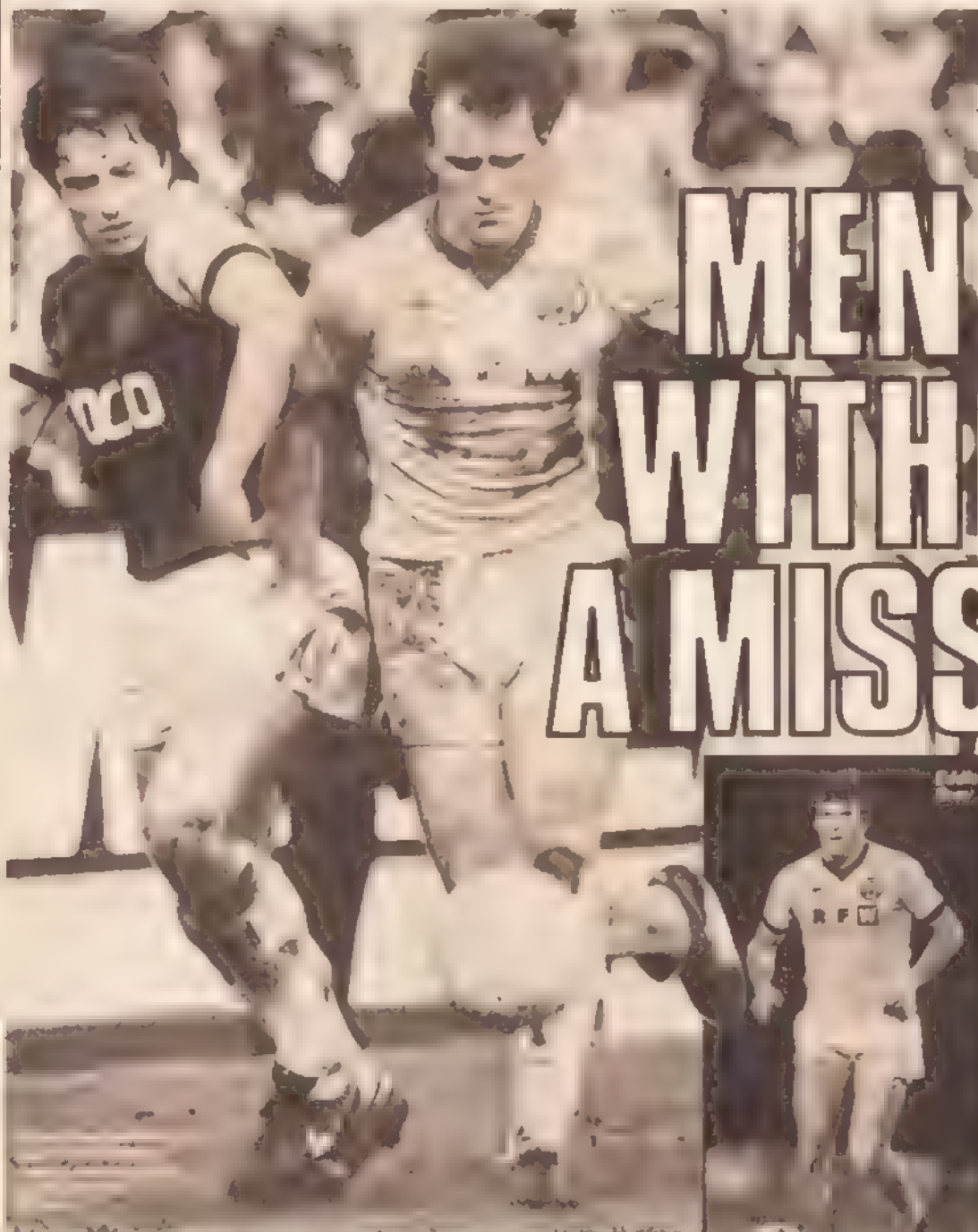
In some cases, fans had paid as much as £100 for a black market ticket.

Real won 2-0 with second half goals from Garcia Hernandez and Pineda.

WORLD CHUMPS

WORLD CHAMPIONS Italy are as good as out of the European Championship following their 1-0 defeat in Rumania. Nothing has gone right for Italy since winning the World Cup last summer, even though Juventus, who have six World Cup winners, are favourites to beat Hamburger SV in the European Cup Final.

Andy Ritchie and Terry Connor are...



MEN WITH A MISSION



ANDY Ritchie believes he has gone up in the world, despite stepping down into the Second Division to join Leeds United from Brighton.

That's why he had no hesitation leaving the South Coast club, despite the fact that Brighton had reached the F.A. Cup Semi-Final.

"Sure there was a chance of a Wembley appearance but nothing is certain in football," he said after succumbing to Leeds manager Eddie Gray's persuasive tongue.

"Missing out on Wembley is a bit of a blow, but as I see it it's only a matter of time before I'm back in the First Division — with Leeds."

The former England Under-21 striker explains: "Let's face it — Eddie is a player I've always admired. He's proving a first-class manager and I'm certain he will lead United to promotion next season."

"I've only played a handful of

games with them but I've seen enough to realise that there are some highly-promising youngsters in the side — midfielders John Sheridan and recent Scottish signing John Donnelly, for instance."

Gray, who says Ritchie has the potential to become a top-class striker, commented: "I have a high regard for the boy's ability. I have played against him several times so I know what he is capable of."

"I remember him scoring a hat-trick against us when he was only 18 when he was with Manchester United. He was brilliant that day."

"I only hope he can reproduce that sort of form for us!"

Twenty-two-year-old Ritchie, who was soon among the goals at Elland Road, cost Brighton

£500,000 when they signed him from Manchester United and was their top scorer with 14 goals last season.

But this campaign hasn't seen him at his best, perhaps because he was in and out of the side and managerial upsets did not help.

So he was delighted when Leeds moved for him just before Easter. And the man who played a key role in persuading the Manchester-born striker to move back North was Brighton team-mate Neil McNab, who spent a month on loan with Leeds in mid-season.

"Neil was very impressed and happy during his stay at Elland Road and I think he would have been happy to stay there had the financial aspect been sorted out

satisfactorily," says Ritchie.

"After I'd flown up to see Eddie Gray I could see why. He has a marvellous knack of getting on with people and he communicates with players. That's half the battle of being a successful manager."

So Ritchie has committed himself to Leeds United's promotion cause! But the man involved in the no cash exchange deal, coloured striker Terry Connor, was immediately plunged into a desperate relegation battle with Brighton.

After making his debut at 17, when his early burst of goals helped to keep Leeds in the First Division, Connor went on to make 107 first team appearances, scoring 22 goals.

Ambition

Always a favourite with the fans, who love a local lad, Connor's ambition was to help the club back into the First Division.

"I'd never imagined myself playing for anyone else but Leeds," he said. "I was born and bred in the city. My parents and friends live there, and really Elland Road was a second home to me."

"So it was a bit of a shock when I was told to fly to Brighton to discuss terms with their manager, Jimmy Mella."

"But once the fact had sunk in that Leeds were willing to sell me I decided to throw in my lot with the Seasiders."

"I knew I wouldn't be able to play in the F.A. Cup because I am Cup-tied, but I was encouraged by their faith in me and their belief that I could act as a foil for big Mick Robinson."

"Together we ought to be able to get quite a few goals."



"Can't your old man do his training for the Cup Final somewhere else?"

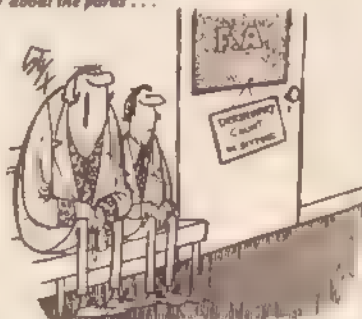
FOOTBALL FUNNIES



"Ever since the coach saw that programme on TV about the paras..."



"What proof have you got that these are Kenny Dalglish's toe nails?"



"I threw a lineman at the ref."



"Boring isn't it?"

"See they want to give us 'ooligans the birch. Ain't that some kind of tree?"



"Put him down — you're not in Superstars now."

NEXT WEEK

FREE

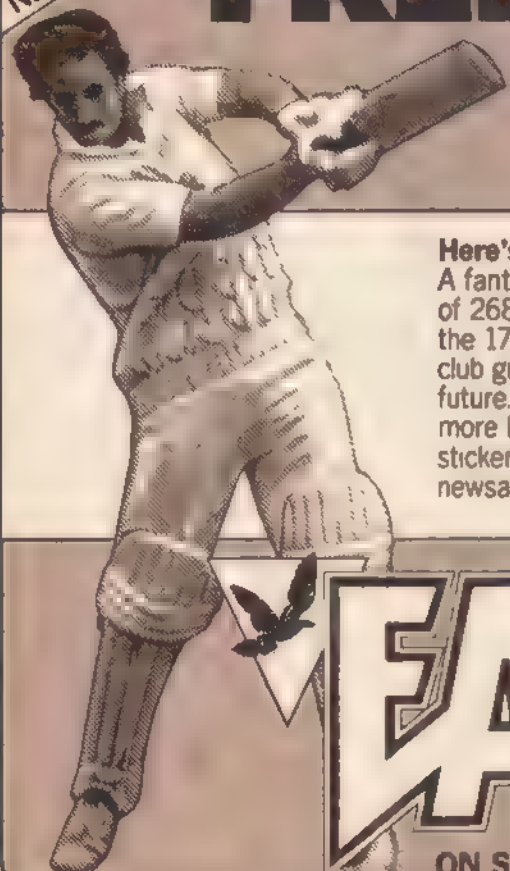


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including favourites Dan Dare and Doomlord! Also, an interview with the one and only BOB PAISLEY.

EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP 1983

TAYLOR HAILS SCOTLAND'S SYSTEM

S SCOTLAND'S system of bringing on their youth players receives unexpected praise from England's youth team manager on the eve of the European Youth Championship, being held in England.

Graham Taylor, the England youth boss, pointed out the successful organisation in Scotland which has helped to make them the current European Champions.

"Those lads have been together since they were in the Under-16's. That has got to be an advantage," he says. "Before I became youth boss, I was suspicious that this same system did not exist in England. Now I know it doesn't."

This year's European Youth Championship begins on Friday, May 13 and 27 different grounds throughout England will be used during the course of the Championships.

The significance of Graham Taylor's comments is that England have been drawn in the same group as Scotland, and the two are due to meet on Sunday at St Andrews, Birmingham.

Also in Group Three are Spain

and USSR. Taylor feels that the presence of the Spanish, as well as Scotland, means England are in the most difficult group.

"They are a very typical Spanish type of side," says Taylor. "They can be a handful on their own ground, but don't seem to travel very well."

Spain qualified by beating Holland over two legs. The Dutch won the first leg 1-0 in Holland, but Spain were the victors in the return by 2-0. Taylor was there for the second leg.

"It was held in front of 10 000 volatile fans in Majorca. I think it was held there deliberately because it was a rare opportunity for the Majorcans to see international football. The Dutch side didn't want to know."

The competition lasts ten days, with both the third-place match and the Final being held at White Hart Lane, home of Tottenham, on Sunday, May 22.

The youth team of World Cup winners Italy are represented, so it will be interesting to see whether they adopt the same kind of style as their senior counterparts.

All we hope is that it is an interesting and entertaining competition, and that either England or Scotland are Champions!

MATCH PROGRAMME

GROUP 1

FRIDAY MAY 13 K.O. 7.30 P.M.
Czechoslovakia v West Germany
Bulgaria v Sweden

VENUE

Burnley
Preston

SUNDAY MAY 15 K.O. 3.00 P.M.
Czechoslovakia v Bulgaria
West Germany v Sweden

Oldham
Bolton

TUESDAY MAY 17 K.O. 7.00 P.M.
Czechoslovakia v Sweden
West Germany v Bulgaria

Manchester United
Barnsley

GROUP 2

FRIDAY MAY 13 K.O. 7.30 P.M.
Yugoslavia v Rumania
Italy v Turkey

Aldershot
West Ham United

SUNDAY MAY 15 K.O. 3.00 P.M.
Yugoslavia v Italy
Rumania v Turkey

Crystal Palace
Reading

TUESDAY MAY 17 K.O. 7.00 P.M.
Yugoslavia v Turkey
Rumania v Italy

Millwall
Orient

GROUP 3

FRIDAY MAY 13 K.O. 7.30 P.M.
England v Spain
Scotland v USSR

Stoke
W.B.A.

SUNDAY MAY 15 K.O. 3.00 P.M.
England v Scotland
Spain v USSR

Birmingham City
Shrewsbury

TUESDAY MAY 17 K.O. 7.00 P.M.
England v USSR
Spain v Scotland

Aston Villa
Wolves

GROUP 4

FRIDAY MAY 13 K.O. 7.30 P.M.
Finland v France
Rep. of Ireland v Belgium

Blackburn Rovers
Sheffield Utd

SUNDAY MAY 15 K.O. 3.00 P.M.
Finland v Rep. of Ireland
France v Belgium

Barnsley
Nottingham For.

TUESDAY MAY 17 K.O. 7.00 P.M.
Finland v Belgium
France v Rep. of Ireland

Sheffield Wed
Leeds

SEMI-FINALS

FRIDAY MAY 20 K.O. 7.30 P.M.
Winner Group 1 v Winner Group 3
Winner Group 2 v Winner Group 4

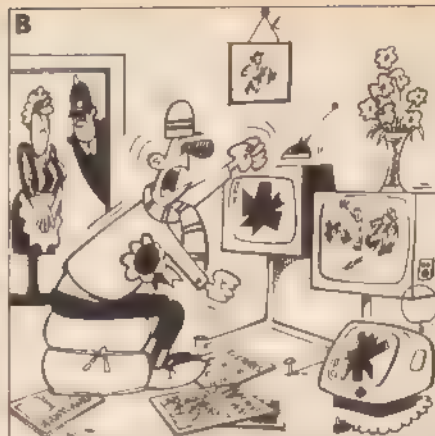
Arsenal
Chelsea

SUNDAY MAY 22
3RD/4TH PLACE MATCH K.O. 1.00 P.M.
FINAL K.O. 3.00 P.M.

TOTTENHAM
TOTTENHAM

GOAL GAME

Beat the SHOOT Quiz expert... if you can! Award yourself a goal for each correct answer and one for SHOOT if you fail to get it right. Put the scores in the boxes at the end of the questions.



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

See if you can spot the ten differences between these two cartoons

1. Did John MacDonald, Derek Johnstone or Sandy Clark score Rangers' winning goal in their 1-0 Scottish Cup Semi-Final replay victory against St Mirren at Hampden Park?
2. Graham Pearce appeared in an F.A. Cup Semi-Final recently for which club?
3. Is it true that Stoke City's Brendan O'Callaghan (right) is a Republic of Ireland international?
4. Sunderland's Leighton James (below) began his career with Burnley. He has since played for three other League clubs... can you name them?



5. Bob Paisley recently clinched his fourth, fifth or sixth Football League Championship as manager of Liverpool in eight, nine or ten seasons in charge?
6. After naming a squad of 20 players for the European Championship game against Hungary, England manager Bobby Robson increased it to 22 when he drafted in Arsenal's Graham Rix, who later pulled out, and which First Division striker?
7. True or false? Luton Town have never won the Second Division Championship
8. Manchester United midfielder player Remi Moses (below) began his League career with which club?

9. Which English or Scottish clubs play at (a) Sealand Road, (b) Links Park, (c) Douglas Park and (d) Ayresome Park?

10. (a) Kevin Keegan, (b) Ronnie Moore, (c) Gordon Davies and (d) Keith Edwards finished last season as their respective Divisions' top League goalscorers. Which clubs were they playing for at the time?

QUIZ RESULT

YOUR SCORE	SHOOT'S SCORE

ANSWERS

1. Sandy Clark (1), John MacDonald (2), Derek Johnstone (3). 2. Burnley. 3. Yes. 4. Burnley, Derby County, Sheffield Wednesday, Nottingham Forest. 5. Six. 6. Bobby Robson. 7. False. 8. Burnley. 9. (a) Grimsby, (b) Grimsby, (c) Grimsby, (d) Grimsby. 10. (a) Liverpool, (b) Liverpool, (c) Liverpool, (d) Liverpool.



★ 1982/83 Programmes ★
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This volley against Luton was my best goal of the season.



NO ONE deserved a place in England's team for the recent game against Hungary more than my Villa front-running mate Peter Withe.

After gaining five caps under Ron Greenwood it was the first time Bobby Robson had called him into his squad.

Like me, Peter is enjoying a super goalscoring season for Villa. As I write I've scored 21, one more than my previous best tally when Villa won the Championship in 1980-81.

Peter needed just two more to add to his 20 to achieve a career best for a season.

I would say Peter and I have been one of the most lethal striking partnerships in the First Division this season. We've proved a real goalmine.

Even though Peter's last international appearance was 18 months ago against Wales, he never really gave up hope of playing for England again. But obviously he was very disappointed when the squads were announced and his name was not mentioned.

Peter Withe's inclusion in the latest England squad was long overdue.

I was also delighted to be named as one of three stand-bys for the squad after others had pulled out through injury.

Although I wasn't one of Bobby Robson's first choices, at least it proves that I do figure in his reckoning and that's encouraging, because I was beginning to wonder if I'd been forgotten.

It's difficult to explain why I'm having such a successful striking season.

But I have been concentrating

more and working harder in the penalty-area to get myself into good scoring positions.

I've also been more lethal with my finishing and punishing most of the chances I get.

Aerial power has never been one of my strengths, but I have scored more with my head this season, especially at the near post.

But no player can score goals unless he gets service. Strikers get the glory, but so much depends on the efforts of the whole team.

away at Manchester City.

The ball was played into Peter Withe at the far post, where he is at his most dangerous.

Peter headed a great ball across the box and I managed to scramble it into the net five yards out from the near post.

My first of the season also proved Villa's matchwinner.

But the goal I rate as the best so far was at Luton last month when Villa lost 2-1.

Gordon Cowans tried a shot from 25 yards, but the ball struck Dennis Mortimer's boot.

That took the pace off the ball so I was able to control it, flick it up, turn and volley home with my left foot from just inside the box.

Villa's defeat obviously took some of the shine off the occasion.

The goal that gave me most pleasure was scored the previous week against Birmingham at Villa Park.

With just five minutes to go and the scores level at 0-0, Peter Withe found me with a pass just outside the area.

My momentum took me past two Blues defenders and I struck the ball with my right foot into the far corner.

**Soccer
as I
see it**



GARY SHAW

VILLA'S GOALMINE

That's the name of Villa's game.

I thrive on opportunities created by Peter's unselfish running and aggression.

But he also needs someone alongside him, buzzing around all the time, making themselves available to receive his passes and knock-ons.

I don't set myself any targets, although when the goals began to flow I considered 25 would be a good total to finish on.

Setting targets creates extra pressure and can lead to disappointment if they are not reached.

All strikers are selfish... to a degree. Targets can make players go to the extreme when they operate for themselves and not the team.

But for a slow start to the season I may have already reached that 25.

I didn't get off the mark until Villa's seventh game, and my fifth.

That derby winner was made sweeter because it was scored at the end where most Blues fans had massed. I knew that many of my mates were up on those terraces and it was revenge for all the stick they'd given me after Birmingham's victory earlier in the season.

I'll be hoping to score against Champions Liverpool at Anfield this Saturday (May 7th).

I'd like to offer them my congratulations on a fabulous 14th title triumph.

Some people claim Liverpool's dominance is boring the fans and driving them away from the game.

I can't say I agree with that. It's up to clubs like Villa to raise our standards and strive even harder to knock Liverpool off their perch.

Cheers...

Gates' loss is —

FOR five months Ipswich Town's international striking partnership of Alan Brazil and Eric Gates were up for sale.

Then, in the space of 24 dramatic hours, the deadly double act parted company. Brazil joined Spurs in a £450,000 deal and Gates changed his mind about quitting Portman Road and came off the transfer list.

Gates' sudden turnabout has helped to soften the blow for Ipswich boss Bobby Ferguson, who makes no secret of his disappointment at losing goal-ace Brazil to White Hart Lane.

Ferguson says: "Alan said he wanted to move to a big club and that annoyed me slightly because I thought he was already with a big club in Ipswich.

"But he was ambitious and when it became clear he wanted to leave us there seemed little point in trying to keep him. I was sorry to see him go because I rate him highly. There aren't many better strikers than Alan."

Ferguson is anxious to point out that Brazil's departure had nothing to do with reports of friction between the two.

He says: "Alan signed for Spurs in the afternoon and that night we went out for dinner with our wives along with Charlie Woods, my assistant, and his wife. We parted the best of friends and everyone at Ipswich wishes him well."

Rift

Brazil, too, scoffed at suggestions of a rift between him and Ferguson, admitting that he was leaving Portman Road with mixed feelings. "Spurs are one of the few clubs I would have left Ipswich to join," he says.

Funnily enough, the 23-year-old striker had the chance to sign for Spurs in 1976 — for nothing. He explains: "I went for a trial but picked up an injury and didn't really have a chance to show what I could do. I returned home to Glasgow and when Ipswich asked me to sign I agreed."

"The thought of playing at White Hart Lane excites me now, though. It's always been one of my favourite grounds and I'm sure I have made the right move."

"Things hadn't been going too well at Ipswich for me and joining Spurs has given me a real boost."

Brazil made it known that he was missing the midfield service of Dutch star Arnold Muhren, architect of so many of his goals for Ipswich before he switched to Manchester United last summer, but he points out: "I'm very excited at the thought of playing in the same side as Glenn Hoddle."

With stars like Osvaldo Ardiles, Gary Mabbutt and Steve Perryman also battling for places in Spurs' creative department, it seems Brazil will not be able to make a similar complaint at White Hart Lane as he attempts to boost an

already impressive scoring rate.

How will Ipswich cope without Brazil? Much will depend on how Eric Gates recovers from the back injury which has ruled him out for the rest of the season.

Gates says: "I'll miss Alan as much as anyone because we were good friends. But I'm looking forward to playing up front. In the past I tended to operate just behind the front two and I'll still play there if we ever switch to 4-4-2."

"It's a big relief to put all the transfer talk behind me, because I can just concentrate on my game. There was a time when I thought a move might be in my best interests but I'm glad it's all been settled."

"Had I been as young as Alan it might have been different. But I'm 27 and have two young children and it wouldn't be fair on my family to uproot them at the moment. My wife and I have talked it over and we're both pleased to be staying in Ipswich."

"I've grown up in football under Bobby Ferguson. He was the youth coach when I joined Ipswich from school and he's had a tremendous influence on my career."

Former manager Bobby Robson

could have swapped Gates for Peter Ward when Brighton made a move a few years back but instead he decided to keep the pint-sized striker who later went on to win two full England caps.

Gates adds: "I've had a few ups and downs at Ipswich but generally speaking I've been happy. I still think there will be good times ahead or I wouldn't be staying."

"I'd have preferred Alan to have stayed but I can understand why he moved."

"There are still enough top-quality players at the club to keep us in the hunt for the top prizes. Every club goes through a spell where one or two players leave and new faces are introduced."

"It takes time for the new lads to find their feet, of course, and that's why we've been unable to put up a serious challenge this season. But even allowing for the changes that have taken place I still think we could claim a UEFA Cup place."



The transfer of Alan Brazil (above) has brought a change of fortunes for both Eric Gates (left) at his former club, Ipswich, and Mark Falco (right) at his new club, Spurs.

Falco's gain

MARK Falco's career with Tottenham Hotspur finished the moment Alan Brazil signed for the North London club!

At least that's what some people believed. With high-priced strikers of the calibre of Garth Crooks and Steve Archibald also available, what chance was there for the local lad who hadn't cost the club a penny?

But far from writing Falco off, manager Keith Burkinshaw raised more than a few eyebrows by choosing to use the youngster alongside Brazil. And the gamble appears to have paid off, handsomely!

Their first six games together produced nine goals, with Falco actually managing to outscore his

costly new partner thanks to two goals against Aston Villa and Arsenal and another against Watford.

In fact, Falco was playing so well before suspension ruled him out of Spurs' game at WBA, Steve Archibald was actually moved back to midfield to accommodate his presence in the team.

"I've got another full season of my contract to run at Spurs, and I have every intention of completing it — and hopefully earning myself a new contract into the bargain," said Falco.

"Alan and I have settled down very well together. He's been used to playing alongside a big front running partner in Paul Mariner at Ipswich, and while I wouldn't flatter myself to the extent of claiming I'm in Mariner's class, there is a similarity in our styles, which I'm sure has helped.

"Obviously it's the manager's decision who plays and who doesn't. Keith's a man of very few words. He never says much about what his future plans might be, but he is very fair.

"He's told me on more than one occasion that it doesn't matter an ounce to him who cost what. So long as whoever is in the side at the time is playing well and doing

his stuff — in the case of a forward that means scoring goals — then he'll stick by him.

"The goals have been going in for me again, so I've every reason to believe that I figure in his plans.

"I just wish this was the start of the season, instead of almost the end, because things are finally beginning to go right for me after a pretty depressing time. And obviously the more Alan and I play together, the better our understanding will become, which has got to be good for both of us."

Revival

Ironically, Falco says it's London neighbours Chelsea who helped start the revival in his fortunes.

"I'd been having problems with injuries and general lack of confidence. I couldn't win a regular spot in the side, so Keith arranged with Chelsea that I should spend some time on loan at Stamford Bridge," says Mark.

"There was never any possibility of a permanent transfer, no matter what you might have read in the newspapers. But the spell did me the world of good.

"It proved my fitness, gave me back my confidence, and now the arrival of Alan Brazil has given me the chance to show that I do have a future at White Hart Lane after all."

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Super Focus **MIKE FLANAGAN**

QPR

FULL NAME: Michael Anthony Flanagan
BIRTHPLACE: Ilford, Essex
BIRTHDATE: November 9, 1952
HEIGHT: 5ft 10ins
WEIGHT: 12st 5lbs
MARRIED: Yes, to Louise
CHILDREN: Adam and Michelle
CAR: Ford Capri
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Tottenham, Charlton, New England Teamen and Crystal Palace
JOB OR TRADE BEFORE:
TURNING PRO: Training as a customs officer
NICKNAME: 'Flan'
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: Daily Mail
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Liverpool's Kenny Dalglish
A PLAYER FOR THE FUTURE: My QPR team-mate Gary Waddock
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: St. Leonards U-11s, a local side I help to coach
FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD: George Best
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Eating
OTHER SPORTS PERSON YOU MOST ADMIRE: Erika Roe!
YOUR BEST EVER ALL TIME XI: The Italian World Cup winners
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: The first game in the 1982 F.A. Cup Final v Spurs
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing the above game in a replay
FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS: Charlton
BEST STADIUM PLAYED IN: Wembley
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES . . .
DISLIKES: Days off from playing . . . People who think they know all about football — but don't!

FAVOURITE SINGERS: Joe Jackson and Elkie Brooks
FAVOURITE ACTOR & ACTRESS: Donald Sutherland and Jane Fonda
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Barbados
BEST FILM SEEN RECENTLY: 'On Golden Pond'
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: American Football and Hill Street Blues
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF: Taking things easy
FAVOURITE FOOD AND DRINK: Macdonalds quarter pounder, french fries and strawberry milkshake
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: All my managers



SUPERSTITIONS: None
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: England Youth and 'B' team
PERSONAL AMBITION: To enjoy playing football as long as possible
IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO? The Editor's job on SHOOT
CAREER AFTER PLAYING: To be involved in sports at local schools or leisure centres
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? E.T.



Mike Flanagan

